

**1st Quarter 2023 Issues Report for FCC
KNAF AM 910 & KNAF FM 105.7- Fredericksburg Texas**

1. FISD Superintendent

A. COVID-19: The schools are continuing to adjust to virtual learning and tracking the covid cases carefully. Local businesses are beginning to have more success, the schools are focused on keeping campuses open as long as possible and tracking the covid cases and vaccine rates carefully.

B. Housing challenges: Affordability and availability are both issues when new hires cannot find affordable or available housing we lose the prospect of long-term quality employees and teachers.

C. Employee shortage: The lack of affordable housing is leading to a shortage of employees to work across all positions in the district. Not only does it affect teachers but those positions that make less than teachers are difficult to fill (bus drivers, cafeteria workers, janitors, etc)

D. Mental Health Crisis: We have an overwhelming increase in mental health needs among the student population. The schools are not equipped with the tools necessary to combat this problem. The counselors don't have adequate support, funding, or outside resources to refer families to. As a result of mental health needs, grades suffer and fall into the background of importance for these families.

2. Economic Development Board

A. COVID-19: Local businesses are beginning to open at higher capacity, locals are becoming more comfortable as the vaccine rates continue to grow.

B. Labor Shortage: Lack of work and employees is a problem for every industry and it is intertwined with the pattern of long term employees not commuting to work. We are already seeing the issue of people coming in from other places to work in our largest employment fields (medical, education, etc) however, most people will not do this for long so turnover is high.

A. Affordable Housing: Prices are rising and property taxes are rising - there is not enough inventory so it exasperates the cost even further. People are drawn here for the quality of life, but then are unable to find quality affordable housing.

B. Traffic & Parking: Vehicle and pedestrian traffic and parking related issues are difficult to manage in Fredericksburg. Every 10 years, the city has debated a relief route. We have 3 major highways that merge onto Main Street. The traffic causes congestion downtown and produces loud noise from continuous cars and large trucks. In addition to the traffic we see a parking issue in town. There is not adequate parking for the number of cars coming to town daily. Then it spills on to the sidewalks and becomes a foot traffic issue also. The sidewalks in downtown are congested and often leads people to jaywalk. We also have large crowds crossing at crosswalks, which further exasperates the issue of the cars being backed up as the walkers are an endless stream across the intersections.

C. Broadband: Fredericksburg infrastructure is not adequate for the influx of visitors to the area. The Broadband and cell services take a hit with all the extra people in town. This prevents the availability of reliable adequate use of technology not only for residents and visitors, but also for businesses.

3. Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce

A. Housing: The shortage displaces people apart from the city, causing an employment shortfall.

B. Workforce: Businesses struggle to meet the demand of customers, often causing the closure of local establishments.

C. Disparity: Fredericksburg has the most millionaires per capita, however more than 50% of the students in our schools are economically disadvantaged and require assistance programs to meet basic needs.

4. Fredericksburg Police Department

A. COVID-19: Enforcing COVID-19 regulations

B. Traffic: Including both vehicle and pedestrian foot traffic – multiple veins of traffic merge on Main Street, causing congestion

C. Parking: Not adequate for the needs of the volume of visitors

5. Hill Country Community Needs Council – Community Relations

A. Affordable Housing – inventory is low, rent is high so it is hard to get ahead or just caught up when unforeseen financial things arise. Families are living in multigenerational housing situations to make ends meet.

B. Child Care Availability- Even when families have the means, there are not child care options available in town with the 3 largest child care resources closing down over the last year.

C. Low Wages/Lack of Benefits- Employment in the area is overwhelmingly lower income service industry jobs that lack benefits such as sick time and insurance. If a working person gets the flu and misses a week of pay that quickly translates to financial struggle and even crisis.

D. Drug Abuse- few people in town speak of the drug abuse in our community. Many are seeking drug help from the Needs Council, sometimes as a court requirement, a child custody requirement, but also just on their own. When this need is not met, other issues a person deals with cannot even begin to be addressed.

Programs:

On KNAF AM 910, we have a few programs that are designed to offer support for the issues we see in our community.

1. Hill Country and Local News: Community and Surrounding Area News
2. Talk About the Hill Country: Community and Surrounding Area Events and Services Organization Interviews
3. Various Church Programing: Local Church Service Broadcasts
4. Trading Post: Advertising Local Items for Sale and Rental Properties
5. The Voice: Tuesday Interview Show on KNAF AM 910
6. COVID-19 Updates: Hourly segments giving information on what events had been cancelled or postponed, statistics from the hospital and the county, open restaurants offering take-out, etc.

7. Area Updates: Hourly and daily reports with city, county and area school districts in numerous counties. (Fredericksburg, Harper, Johnson City, Blanco and Llano)
8. Local Meetings: News reports providing information from City Councils, Commissioners Courts, and School Boards, in addition to Stakeholders meetings from area Chambers.
9. Talk About Texas: Segment where local businesses & figures are interviewed on-air.
10. Daily COVID-19 reports were compiled by area hospitals: