

## Feeding Our Deer

As many of you know, the City of Sunrise Beach has had an ordinance prohibiting the feeding of deer within the city limits since 2006 (see Ordinance 238 at [www.cityofsunrisebeach.org](http://www.cityofsunrisebeach.org)). The establishment of this ordinance was not taken lightly and the benefit to the deer was considered as much as the benefit to our residents.

How so? The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department notes strongly that spreading deer corn is specifically detrimental to the health of our deer population. Deer corn contains chemicals which are in many cases poisonous to the deer's system and at best acts like sugar to a small child...too much causes big problems. In addition, when the corn (or any grain for that matter) is spread on road ways, parking lots or gravel areas, the deer pick up the gravel and small rocks along with the food and in the chewing, wear down their teeth, causing all manner of health issues.

As noted in the TPWD managing deer handbook, deer depend on supplemental food sources to survive in an urban area such as our city. If we as a community are responsible about not providing that supplemental food, deer will have incentive to move out of our urban core to surrounding areas where foliage is more abundant, their health can improve and there is less direct interaction with vehicles and property. All this actually can increase their viability and life span which those of us who love the deer truly want.

Please support these efforts by adhering to the no-feeding ordinance. Thanks!