

Jersey Village Star

November 2007

Water Rate Increase



In May, the City of Houston notified the City of Jersey Village that a water rate increase of 19.38 percent would take effect September 1, 2007. The previous cost was \$1.47 per thousand gallons. This has increased our annual water purchase budget by \$110,000. The Public Works Department proposed a water rate increase of 10 percent to the residents. City Council approved the water rate increase to take effect November 1st and would affect residential and commercial water bills beginning with the December billing cycle.

Jersey Village that a water rate increase of 19.38 percent would take effect September 1, 2007. The City will now pay \$1.76 per thousand gallons used. This has increased our annual water purchase budget by \$110,000. The Public Works Department proposed a water rate increase of 10 percent to the residents. City Council approved the water rate increase to take effect November 1st and would affect residential and commercial water bills beginning with the December billing cycle.



Statistics for September 2007 JV Police Department

Calls for Service	84
Vehicle Theft	3
Aggravated Assault	1
Burglary, business	6
Burglary, residence	3
Burglary, vehicle	3
Disturbance	30
Narcotics, felony	4
Minor accidents	74
Major accidents	8
Alarms	50
Suspicious person	40
Traffic control	2
Traffic hazard	30

JV Emergency Services

Building Fires	3
Auto Fires	0
Other Fires	2
Rescue/EMS incidents	49
Hazardous Conditions	4
Service Calls	6
Smoke or odor calls	1
False alarms/cancelled enroute	14
Total Ambulance Transports	41

Important City Phone Numbers

Emergency Call	911
Main Number	713-466-2100
City Manager	713-466-2108
City Secretary	713-466-2102
Fire Dept.	713-466-2130
Police Dept.	713-466-5824
Permits	713-466-2110
Public Works	713-466-2133
Code Enforcement	
& Animal Control	713-466-2129
Water Billing	
& Taxes	713-466-2111
Municipal Court	713-466-2124
Golf Course	713-896-0900
City Pool	832-467-1032
JV STAR	713-466-2108

For more information visit
www.jerseyvillage.info

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Sandy's Corner

Drive Now, Talk Later

by Officer S. Joachim, special to the Jersey Village Star

Cell phone distraction causes 2,600 deaths and 330,000 injuries in the United States every year, according to the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society. Separate research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign supported the conclusion that hands-free cell phone use causes driver distraction. Drivers look but don't see, because they are distracted by the conversation. In mid-October 2004 in the case of Yoon v. Wagner a Virginia jury awarded \$2 million in damages to the family of a young girl who was killed by a driver using a cell phone at the time of the accident. The plaintiff also filed a suit against the driver's employer after it became clear through an examination of phone records that the driver had been talking to a client when she hit the girl.

Cell phones are a great safety tool when they are used properly. Cell phones play an integral role in our society. However, the convenience they offer must be judged against the hazards they pose.

Here are a few cell phone driving tips that we should all take note of:

- **Never dial your cell phone or take notes while driving.**
- **If the phone rings while you are driving, let the cellular voice mail service take the call and then listen to the message later, when you're parked.**
- **Make sure the phone is easy to see and reach.**
- **Get to know its features (speed dial, redial, hands-free)**
- **If you must answer, let the person know that you're driving. Suspend the call until you can pull over.**
- **Do not engage in stressful conversations that may divert your attention from the road.**



Fire Safety-Smoke Detectors

by Jersey Village Emergency Services Fire-Rescue-EMS, special to the Jersey Village Star

Guess what time it is? That's right, time to change your battery in your smoke detector. Every year almost 3000 people lose their lives to fire. Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in the home are considered one of the best and least expensive means of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. Smoke alarms save lives, prevent injury and reduce damage from fire. It is the early warning system that will get your attention. Did you know that when you sleep the one true sense that works is your hearing? Many people do not realize this.

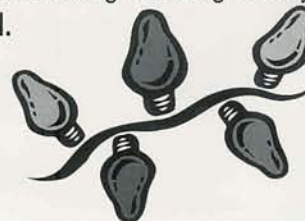
TEST YOUR
ALARM MONTHLY



There is a saying that most people are familiar with, "Change your clock, Change your battery." **November 4 is daylight savings time and time to change your clocks.** At 2:00 a.m. move your clocks back one hour. It is also time to change your batteries in your smoke detectors. We won't ask you to do this at 2:00 a.m., but sometime during that day it's out with the old and in with the new battery for your smoke detector. Take a permanent marker and write the word "used" on the old batteries. These batteries can now be utilized for your children's games. Once this is completed don't forget every month to push the button on the smoke detector and check its function.

Jersey Village Christmas Decorating Contest

On **Tuesday and Wednesday, December 11 & 12, from 7-9:30 p.m.** judges will be out looking for the best dressed Jersey Village homes. Time to start checking those lights and planning for the best holiday display ever! And while you're taking in the sights why not sign the kids up to be Children's Choice Judges? **Contact Dorothy Starkey at dostarkey@sbcglobal.net or call 713-896-7911** for questions or an application to register as a Children's Choice Judge.



Upcoming Events:

November 12 - Veteran's Day

November 22 - Thanksgiving

December 2 - Holiday in the Park from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

- Come out to Carol Fox Park to enjoy snow, shopping, fun and so much more!

December 11-12 Christmas Decorating Contest

- From 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. judges will be out looking for the best dressed Jersey Village homes.

December 7-9 and 13-16 - Santa is Back

- The fire department fundraiser will again have Santa, Mrs. Claus and their elves arrive in style on fire trucks ready to deliver gifts.

We have limited space available. Reservations have opened and slots are filling fast! Call 713-466-2130 for details!



Holiday in the Park - COMING SOON

On Sunday, December 2 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. it will be snowing in Jersey Village! It's time for Holiday in the Park at Carol Fox Park (corner of Senate and Jersey Dr.) featuring 2 areas of snow and vendors to help with gift ideas. Mark your calendar and don't miss this opportunity to wear those cold weather clothes for a couple of hours!



Vendors Wanted for Holiday in the Park

If you have a home based business, product or service you would like to showcase, or if you have a Scout troop interested in providing food or entertainment, please consider participating in **Holiday in the Park** at Carol Fox Park on Senate and Jersey Dr. on **Sunday, December 2 from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.!** There is no booth fee for residents of Jersey Village and a fee of just \$10 for non-residents. To request an application please email dostarkey@sbcglobal.net or

call **Dorothy Starkey, JV Recreation & Events Committee, at 713-896-7911.**

Music Holiday Greetings

Jersey Village High School Band and Orchestra members will be selling Musical Holiday Greetings. Musical greeting will be delivered **Tuesday, December 4 and Thursday, December 6.** Cost of each greeting is \$10 and may be purchased from any JVHS Band or Orchestra student or by calling the **Band Hall at 713-896-9415.** Sorry, cards can only be delivered in JVHS attendance zone.



Street Bond Project

In August, the City Council of Jersey Village awarded the Engineering firm of Brook & Sparks, Inc the contract for the design, bid, and construction phases of the City's proposed street and drainage projects. Brooks & Sparks is the same firm that designed and headed the City's street projects in 2002. The Public Works Department will hire a project/construction manager to oversee the City's street projects. That person will be in charge of making sure that the scope of work is done according to the specified drawings. He will also handle complaints and see that construction issues are addressed promptly. We are looking forward to having and successful project!

Holiday Safety

by Jersey Village Emergency Services Fire-Rescue-EMS, special to the Jersey Village Star

The Holiday Season is around the corner. It's the day after Thanksgiving and you are standing in a line waiting for the doors to open. Your thinking, how many other people are going to try and get the same thing I want to buy? I am going to run as fast as I can and make sure it is mine. The door opens, the crowd rushes in and you seem like you're in a bee hive trying to make your way in and out.

What most people fail to do during the busiest shopping time of the year is think of there personal safety. How many of you ever thought what if an emergency arose while I was in this store? What would I do? How would I get out?

Most businesses are required by code to maintain multiple exit doors for emergency egress. Plan ahead this year. Visit the stores you plan on shopping during the busy holiday season and plan your escape route in the event of an emergency. We talk with your children about having two ways out of your home in an emergency during our school visits. You too, should be thinking about the secondary ways out of the businesses you visit.

Emergencies come at undesirable times and in places you do not expect. Thinking out side the box and preparing yourself gives you the upper hand and just may help save your life this holiday season!



Happy Holidays!

City Council Actions

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved minutes Of the August 20, 2007, Regular Session held at 7:00 P.M.
- Approved Resolution No. 2007-36 – Appointing City Health Officer
- Approved staff to seek proposals for group medical insurance
- Approved Ordinance No. 2007-35 – Amending the FY2006-2007 budget (police overtime)
- Approved Ordinance No. 2007-36 – Amending the FY2006-2007 budget (municipal court overtime)
- Approved Ordinance No. 2007-37 – Amending the FY2006-2007 budget (street lighting)
- Approved Ordinance No. 2007-38 – Amending the FY2006-2007 budget (White Oak Bayou)
- Approved Resolution No. 2007-37 – Authorizing a contract with Null Lairson Certified Public Accountants, P.C. For Auditing Services

NEW BUSINESS

- Approved Resolution No. 2007-38 – Nominating Ed Heathcott as a candidate for a position on the Board of Directors of the Harris County Appraisal District
- Approved Resolution No. 2007-39 – Designating Councilmember Jill Klein as the City representative and Councilmember Ernie English as the alternate City representative to the Houston-Galveston Area Council's 2008 General Assembly
- Approved Resolution No. 2007-40 –

Authorizing agreement with Hall, Barnum, Lucchesi Architects for master planning services for the Jersey Village Police Department Expansion

- Approved Resolution No. 2007-41 – Authorizing a contract with Wells Fargo Bank
- Approved Resolution No. 2007-42 – Appointing Doris Michalak as a member of the Recreation & Events Committee
- Approved Resolution No. 2007 – Reappointing members to the Planning & Zoning Commission, Zoning Board of Adjustment, Building Board of Adjustment, Recreation & Events Committee, and Golf Course Advisory Committee
- Proposed to increase property taxes by 8.3% and call two public hearings on the matter. The first to be held on October 4, 2007, at 7:00 p.m. at the City of Jersey Village Civic Center and the second to be held on October 8, 2007, at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Jersey Village Civic Center
- Approved Resolution No. 2007-44 – Authorizing a contract with GLOBAL TEL*LINK Corporation
- Approved Ordinance No. 2007-40 – Amending Chapter 30 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Jersey Village, Texas; relating to the authority of the Fire Marshal
- Approved an increase in the City Manager's base salary to \$104,000 per year with an additional allowance of \$6,000 for transportation and to include longevity pay

Recycling

Let's Finish Strong

First of all, thank you to all residents who have participated in the city's recycling program over the past four months. And special thanks to the "Block Captains" who have given their time and energy to help this effort. We have held steady at about 30 % participation and many cities would be pleased with a 30% participation rate.

The city would like to finish our six month program on a strong note. We would like to see the city average 40% participation for the remaining two months. Tascon is under no obligation to continue the program beyond the six-month period. Participation levels above 40% make a strong case for continuation of the program.

The recycling program was initiated in response to the curtailment of recycling collection by Allied Waste. When the city partnered with Tascon, we signed on for a six-month trial period. Tascon collects our recycling materials free of charge. We committed to Tascon that we would do everything within our resources to advertise and try to gain citizen support for the initiative. I truly believe we have held up our end of the bargain. Our six-month period ends November 28th. It is undecided whether or not we will continue the program with Tascon.

This all begins with individual efforts from individual households. If you are not a participant in the program, please help us. If you have questions, please call us. (713) 466-2108. As our recycling signs proclaim "The City of Jersey Village is in your hands".



Jersey

Village

Star

*City of Jersey Village
16501 Jersey Drive
Jersey Village, TX 77040*

PRE SORT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT NO. 130

