

JERSEY VILLAGE STAR

PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE

SEPTEMBER 2002

Upcoming Events

Sept. 3rd Planning & Zoning Commission Mtg.,
7:00pm Civic Center Auditorium

Sept. 9th Monday with the Mayor,
6:00 pm Civic Center Auditorium

Sept. 9th Golf Course Adv. Committee Mtg.,
7:00pm Golf Course Club House

Sept. 14th CPR Class at the Fire Station (call 713-466-2130 for details).

Sept. 16th City Council Budget Public Hearing
7:00pm Civic Center Auditorium

Sept. 23rd City Council – Adoption of fiscal year 2002-2003 Annual Budget
7:00pm Civic Center Auditorium



SCHOOL IS BACK IN SESSION...OBSERVE SCHOOL ZONE SPEED LIMITS AND BE SURE TO WATCH OUT FOR YOUNGSTERS WHILE DRIVING!

JERSEY VILLAGE TAKES LEAD IN EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

Just about everyone knows that when there's an emergency, you call 9-1-1. There is a new system, however, that will tell YOU when there's an emergency situation developing.

The City of Jersey Village is participating with the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network in helping to test just such an early warning system -- N.E.W.S. -- Network Early Warning System. The City has been selected to be the "beta site" for the operation of the new program, and all the preliminary support for this is now underway.

According to City Manager, Dale Brown, "At the completion of the testing phase, and when everything is working according to plan, Jersey Village will then become the first city in the County to have N.E.W.S. operational. This is part of an overall emergency communications system we are developing that we believe will be a tremendous advantage for our residents."

The N.E.W.S. program provides participating jurisdictions the capability of having telephone calls placed to households to warn them of dangerous situations (e.g., chemical spill, explosion, hazardous weather conditions, etc.), and provide instructions on what to do.

A test of this system for citizens of Jersey Village will take place one day the first week in September 2002 at approximately 11 am.

The activation of the test will include telephone calls with a message that is identified as a TEST. At this point, no action on the part of residents is needed, so please DO NOT call 9-1-1 or the police or fire departments. ■



Sandy's Corner



Child Abduction

In a perfect world, our children would be safe from all harm. They could play with friends and go off to school without any worries or concerns. But this is the real world.

Although most kids grow up without any negative experiences, we have to do our best to prepare them in case they are ever in danger or threatened in any way. Sit down and discuss this issue a little at a time so that it is not so overwhelming. It will give your child an opportunity to express his or her feelings so that you can put any fears to rest.

Start with these questions:

1. You're walking home from school and a car pulls up beside you, keeping up with you. You can tell they are following you, so you...*(turn around and run in the opposite direction.)*
2. A car pulls alongside you and the sweet old lady behind the wheel asks you for directions. Then she asks you to come closer, because she can't hear well. So you...*(keep walking, change direction, and pretend you don't hear her).*
3. An abductor tells you to get in the car, or he'll shoot you. So you...*(run as fast as you can,*

screaming, and running in a crooked line).

The most important step a parent can take is to open a line of communication with your child. Let your children know that you want to hear what they have to say and, above all, that you will believe them before anyone else.

Also make certain that your child understands that when any adult wants a child to keep anything secret from their parents to back off completely from any further conversation.

With the exception of some parks, most outings parents take with their children are full of distractions. As any parent would know, kids themselves are huge distractions. Safety and well being of children starts with keeping them close by and visible as much as possible.

Toddlers should be carted or in a stroller during any distracting errand. Not only will you have them right in front of you at all times, but you won't have to worry about them spilling merchandise off of shelves, tripping other shoppers, and forgetting what you came for in the first place.



Even when the setting is a playground there can still be problems. Encourage your kids to stay near one area. Keep them within a few yards of each other. Should your attention need to be totally diverted from one of the children, for instance in the case of a



skinned knee, call the other one over to "help".

Public restrooms can be another nightmare for parents—especially if your child is a member of the opposite sex. So even if a child's eyes have to be covered on the way to a locked, closed stall, that child must be accompanied right to the stall itself. Public bathrooms are no place for unaccompanied children.

Rules for your children to live by:

- Always walk or play with a friend or friends.
- Always walk along streets you know.
- If someone tries to take you away, fight, kick, and scream: "Help! This is not my mom or dad!"
- Never talk to strangers no matter how friendly they seem.
- If a car stops or slows down beside you, quickly run in the direction from which the car was coming. It takes awhile for a car to turn around and come after you. Run to where people are -- to a "safe house" or to someone working in a yard.
- Never get into a stranger's car even if they say they are supposed to pick you up.

Our children need to see the world, it's how they learn and grow. Even if it takes more effort than ever on our part to keep them safe, remember, they are worth it. ■

Capital Improvements

Each year, the City of Jersey Village allocates hundreds of thousands of dollars to maintaining and improving the infrastructure that sustains our community. Our Public Works Department reports on the progress of these efforts at the monthly Council Meetings, and the STAR will include this update as a regular feature.



TASK/PROJECT	% COMPLETE	COMMENTS
Philippine St. Reconstruction	75%	Water line const. complete; Beltway is now accessible. Contractor will now start curb and sidewalk repairs. Project is on schedule.
Lakeview/Rio Grande Recon.	70%	Lakeview/Rio Grande section almost completed. A section of the road will be closed for a week while pavement is replaced.
Tahoe Lift Station/Gravity Line	1%	Parts and components ordered; not started.
Elevated storage tank #2 Village	98%	Final inspection is anticipated within two weeks.
SCADA system for water plant	100%	System operating on automatic.
Fire Station	10%	Foundation slab poured, all underground plumbing and electrical has been completed.
Senate Avenue/Landscaping/Lights	20%	Lights have been ordered; expected delivery within 12 weeks.
Sewer Rehabilitation	100%	Complete.
Water line over W.O.B.	100% Design	Change ordered into TJ&T contract.
Repaint GS Tank #2	0%	Request authorization to bid -- Sept. Council meeting.
Castlebridge bridge construction	0%	Prelim. design underway; to bid November 2002



MAKING PROGRESS...

Fire Station construction.



▲ Rio Grande looking East to Jersey.

EMPHASIZING THE BASICS HELPS KIDS SUCCEED IN SCHOOL



Over the past couple of decades, education has changed. Even the Three R's are different. Today, psychologists place a stronger emphasis on **Respect, Responsibility, and Resourcefulness** as being essential to long-term success in school. They're probably right, when you stop to think about it. These are the same basic values taught by the Andersons and the Cleavers in the 1950's; the backbone of the Baby Boomers' strategy for life.

Many parenting experts believe that somewhere along the line our priorities got mixed up. We have allowed television to redefine parenting roles and we need to be reminded that children are people, not high performance products.

Many things have contributed to this mind-set: people are waiting longer to have children, and when they do finally get around to being parents, more often than not, both partners keep their full time careers. We have a whole generation of moms and dads out there who were really excellent at their jobs and they just

assumed they would be really excellent parents, as well. Many parents feel responsible for their youngster's success. When things don't go quite as planned, they become confused and frustrated by what they perceive to be their own failures.

At no time during the year does this parental anxiety manifest itself more strongly than when Back To School time rolls around. Parents of the kindergarten "first-timers" worry that Johnny won't remember all his alphabet or will have an "accident" in class. Moms of cheerleader or drill team wannabes are fearful about their daughters being disappointed and hurt, just as dads sometimes attempt to relive their own athletic glory days through their teen's prowess on the playing field.

When it comes to helping their children achieve success in school, perhaps the first rule for parents should be to RELAX.

Ask yourself, "whose life is it, anyway." There is no chapter in an owner's manual that reveals the formula for raising smart, su-

per-achievers who excel in everything they try. Not only is that unrealistic, but this fast-paced, do-it-all mentality isn't appropriate for all kids.

Youngsters do not need to be competing, learning, performing and participating in organized sports or activities during *every moment away from school*. They need unstructured play time and good quality moments with their parents, too.

No matter how hard they try, parents cannot *program* achievement for their kids. What they can do is to create the kind of family environment that fosters self-esteem; that provides positive role models and encouragement; and that sets firm but loving guidelines and limits that allow a healthy balance of structure and fun.

Unfortunately, far too many parents value their kids' achievements more than they appear to value their kids. Faster, better, sooner isn't always what is best for young people.

It is as if by boasting about their youngster's academic brilliance or athletic ability they are somehow validating their own success as parents. Pediatricians point out that parents need to be realistic about the actions they take in their children's name and make sure their child's needs take priority...not their own dreams.

PROMOTING STRESS, NOT EXCELLENCE

The popular press would have us believe that stress is a relatively new by-product of today's global community. It is certainly true that our burgeoning "information age" bombards us with so much information that it threatens to overwhelm us all -- children and adults alike. Stress is nothing new; however, kids have been confront-

ing the pressures and difficulties of school for countless generations, but perhaps the level of stress has intensified.

"Bud" and "Princess" didn't have to worry about AIDS and global warming. The Beaver didn't stress out if he didn't make the honor roll. And Ozzie and Harriet weren't concerned that household responsibilities would somehow blight David and Ricky's teenage experience.

Stress is very real and its symptoms should never be ignored in young people. Statistics tell us that every 78 seconds somewhere in this country a teen succumbs to what they must feel are overwhelming pressures and attempts suicide.

Parents need to watch out for behavioral changes as stress indicators. Repeated complaints of illness -- stomachaches or headaches especially -- on Sunday night or Monday morning should alert Mom or Dad that something is wrong. Don't let the problem fester. Get a medical opinion about the "chronic" illness, ask your child what is wrong, and check with teachers or school counselors to learn if something is bothering the child at school.

Parents may not be able to shield their children from stress, but they can help them learn the skills they need to manage it better. Children who handle stress well generally feel good about themselves. Sometimes, a child's biggest stress factor is trying to please his or her parents. In the extreme, a perfection-oriented youngster may stop trying new things or entering into competitive sports unless winning is not only possible, but probable.

COMMUNICATIONS ARE CRITICAL

Educators tell us that language is the base for all other learning, so youngsters who are used to communicating with their parents and peers are off to a head start in school. Children love to recite the names of things around them, and this simple exercise can provide an excellent basis for making them comfortable in simple question and answer periods at school.

Encourage them to talk about their experiences, their play time activities, who they saw at school...anything to get them talking and describing people and things. Reward their efforts with your absolute, undivided attention. Invite their opinions, and really listen to -- and discuss -- their responses. The more comfortable they are talking to a parent, the easier it will be to raise their hand in class and to talk before their teacher and classmates.

Experts agree that one of the most positive things parents can do to help prepare their children for school is to read to them almost from birth. At each developmental level, youngsters gain from hearing the spoken word. As verbal skills become more acute, the stories help entertain and teach, as well.

Creative writing is another positive activity kids and parents can do together. With personal computers in so many households, the young author's stories can even be illustrated.

Help youngsters maintain a positive attitude about their school and teachers. Without thinking, your grumbling could be sending the wrong message to your child that doing "assignments" is boring, tedious work.

Set homework rules early in the game. Dedicate a place and

a specific time when and where homework is done and stick to it. Ask each evening about homework assignments, and be available for help. That doesn't mean doing your child's homework. That much help is not fair to the youngster; the teacher always knows; and it risks making your child feel inadequate. Make it clear at the beginning of the school year just how much help -- and what kind -- you are willing to provide.

Get involved with your children's school and stay involved all the way through high school. Go to their school yourself; make appointments to observe your youngster's classroom in action. Don't just go to the parent/teacher conferences that are offered, but go prepared with lists of questions to ask and comments you want to make. Find out what your local School Board does. Meetings are open to the public... attend one.

Youngsters need to discover that learning can be fun, and they need to be able to count on you to provide the much-needed praise and pep talks along the way!





GOLF TIP OF THE MONTH...

The quickest way to improve your golf game (for most golfers) is to improve your short game. When I play golf with high handicap golfers, one of the biggest problems I see is the amount of wasted shots these golfers use around the greens. Sometimes they will blade the ball over the green or hit that dreaded "chilly dip".

Does this sound familiar? Poor chipping is usually a result of too big a back swing and getting too "wristy" with the shot. A chip shot needs to be struck with a firm left wrist.

Here's a good little trick to practice your chipping. Tape a Popsicle stick to the back of your left hand or place the stick under your watch (the middle of the stick should be under the middle of the watch). Next, practice taking short swings. Try not to let your hand hit the Popsicle stick.

If you make a proper chip, your left wrist will remain flat. If you get too "wristy", the back of your hand will hit the Popsicle stick causing the stick to bend or even break. Remember, your left wrist should remain flat and firm through the entire swing. If you can master this simple drill, you'll be on your way to becoming a good chipper and a better golfer.

If you have any questions about this drill or if you want to schedule a lesson, please call me at 713-896-0900.

Sam Hewitt

Head Golf Professional,
Jersey Meadow Golf Course

MORE GOLF NEWS...

"It's late September and I really should be back in school" -- golf school that is. If Rod Stewart lived in Jersey Village, he would want to sign up for the New Golfer Program at Jersey Meadow Golf Course. The New Golfer Program is intended for those of you who have always been interested in playing golf, but never had the time or didn't want to spend a lot of money on private lessons. This program is designed to eliminate any fear or embarrassment a new golfer may have. Our professional staff will show the new golfers the proper course and clubhouse etiquette as well as teaching them how to play this great game. The New Golfer Program includes:

- 6 one hour group lessons
- Discounted range fees
- Play & ride any day after 5:30 for \$7.00
- Designated play days with other new golfers and the teaching professionals
- Free use of rental clubs to practice and play
- Two free green fee certificates
- Free Star membership good through December 31, 2002.

Classes will be offered on Tuesday evenings at 6:00, Saturday morning at 9:30, and Sunday afternoons at 3:00. The first class will start on September 10th. Get signed up early; class size will be limited so the student/teacher ratio will be effective.

We are starting to schedule quite a few tournaments in the fall. If you would like to have a tournament here, now is the time to schedule it.



Pro Shop Sale

All shirts and shoes are marked down 20 to 50 %. Buy any club in stock, and play golf free that day; this includes Ping putters, titleist, and Tommy Armour wedges.

Sam

Yards of the Month

Congratulations to...

- 16109 Singapore
Shannon & Earl Layton
- 15522 Shanghai
Al Hopfe
- 8605 Red Pheasant
George & Tracy Zimmerman
- 15306 Chichester
Earl Thompson



CALIFORNIA...HERE WE COME!

The **Jersey Village gold Duster Dance and Drill Team** is busy preparing for the 2002-2003 football and contest seasons. In addition to their full practice schedule, the Gold Dusters are preparing to go to California to compete in a National Contest in March 2003. They will be hosting many activities to raise money for their trip. Here are some fundraisers coming up:

September 7: Car Wash -- H.E.B. at West Rd and Beltway
Sears Hardware at Jones Rd. and West Rd.
Outback Steakhouse on Hwy. 290

September 14: Gold Dusters Dance Clinic for all boys and girls kindergarten thru high school from 8:45 to 2:00 at Jersey Village High School, 7600 Solomon. Stretch, warm-up, learn specially choreographed routines and have lots of fun! Parents are invited to a special performance at 1:30. Pre-register by September 6th for \$20.00 or register at the door for \$23. For more information call Gloria Peterson at 281-955-5795.

September 28: Eighth Annual Gold Duster Golf Tournament at Jersey Meadow Golf Course. A barbeque lunch, door prizes, silent auction, and team awards will be included in the Four-Person Scramble Tournament. Hole, group, or tournament sponsorships are available and will be acknowledged with a sponsor sign. If you are unable to play, we welcome donations of any kind for door prizes, auction items, and welcome bags for each golfer. Any items or cash donations will be gratefully accepted. For more information, call Al Diener at 281-894-4832 or 281-894-6955, or 281-962-0118.

LEARN HOW TO SAVE A LIFE...

Jersey Village Emergency Service is offering American Red Cross CPR and First Aid classes on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Special arrangements are available for daytime classes.

The course fee is \$40 and participants will be provided with all materials needed and will receive an American Red Cross Card upon successful completion of the class.

For more information or to register, call 713-466-2130.



CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS ~

August Session

1. Called for a public hearing on the 2003 Budget.
2. Authorized Harris County to construct the hike/bike trail within Jersey Village. This grant project will be Precinct 3's first project to build a hike and bike trail, and they hope it will be the model for future grants and construction projects.

Know the Early Warning Signs of a Heart Attack

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense, but most heart attacks start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Often people affected aren't sure what's wrong and wait too long before getting help.

Here are early warning signs that call for immediate attention:

■ **Chest discomfort.** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes, or that goes away and comes back. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.

■ **Discomfort in other areas of the upper body.** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.

■ **Shortness of breath** often comes along with chest discomfort, but it can occur earlier.

■ **Other signs:** may include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or lightheadedness.

With one or more of these signs, call 9-1-1...and get to a hospital right away. Better safe than sorry. ■

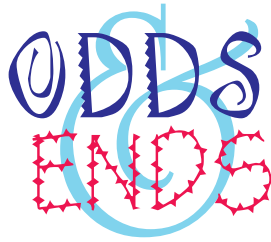
**MONTHLY STATISTICS,
JULY 2002**

JV Police Department:

Calls for Service	412
Vehicle Theft	12
Theft	14
Aggravated Assault	0
Burglary, business	3
Burglary, vehicle	13
Disturbance	48
Narcotics, felony	0
Minor accidents	52
Major accidents	11
Alarms	67
Suspicious person	42
Traffic control	4
Traffic hazard	20

JV Emergency Services Dept.:

EMS calls	51
Structure fires	4
Spills, leaks	5
Smoke, odors	3
Grass, trash fires	2
Service calls	5
Cancelled enroute	9
Total calls	79
Ambulance transports	32



■ **JERSEY VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB...** starts a new year on September 10, 2002 at 9:30 a.m. The Club has moved its meeting to a new location: The Jersey Village Civic Center Auditorium, 16327 Lakeview. The program will be "Fragrance in the Garden" by Lee Jacobs. Everyone is welcome. Any questions, please call 713-937-6756. The October program will be a pilgrimage to the Harris County Extension Center, 2 Abercrombie Dr., Houston, TX 77084, then to Karen Breneman' Wildscape Garden.

■ **FIRST MONDAYS WITH THE MAYOR...** new channel of communication between City Council and residents. The first Monday of each month, at 7 p.m., City Hall. The September session will be on the 9th, 6 p.m. at the Civic Center.

■ **FIRE PREVENTION OPEN HOUSE...** to commemorate Fire Prevention Month, Saturday, October 19th, 10 am to 2 pm. There will be demonstrations, fire truck rides, and refreshments. More details in next month's STAR.



■ **ITS NOT TOO EARLY TO PLAN...** The holidays are just around the corner, so it is not too early to plan for your "Santa Special Deliveries," December 13, 14, 15, 20, and 21. For more information, please call 713-466-2130 -- "Santa Deliveries" -- and ask for Santa's helper. Call early to reserve your time slot.



**City of Jersey Village
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