



CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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MAYOR'S LETTER MAY 2011

I had a hard time thinking of a subject for this letter. Trying to come up with a new topic or item of interest is increasingly harder after a few years, so I decided to copy a favorite show of mine and write about nothing.

So this letter is all about nothing. I read in the paper and hear on the radio of all the bad things that are happening around us. School districts are laying off teachers, the county is laying off police officers, the City of Houston has a billion dollar issue with their pension funding and the state has a huge budget problem which they will try to solve by pushing funding back to the cities. Elected officials are being tried on ethics charges and being asked to prove their citizenship, city elections and bond issues elsewhere are making the news that fill the headlines and Op-ed pages daily. In Jersey Village, however, there is nothing to write about; in this case, that is a good thing.

Our city employees, led by City Manager Mike Castro, make running Jersey Village look easy. I can assure you, however, that, like ducks that seem to drift effortlessly on a lake, they are paddling like mad away from the sight of the public. They are very hard working men and women who, by doing their jobs well, make sure that there is nothing to write about in the city. The city's budget process starts in a couple of weeks, beginning with a three-night retreat and culminating in Council's passing of the budget in September. At the retreat (which is anything but that considering the amount of work done by elected officials and city staff), Council is given a summary of the status of each department, any anticipated challenges they will face and the budgetary needs for next year.

This is a public meeting and each of you is invited to attend and listen. It is as close to a "State of the City" report as there is. The retreat starts on Monday, May 16 at 6PM and will run long into the night. We will meet again on Tuesday evening and again on Wednesday evening, if necessary.

If you choose to attend, you will probably hear a lot about nothing.