



CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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MAYOR'S LETTER SEPTEMBER 2012

Written by Mayor Russell Hamley

IT TAKES A VILLAGE...

As I write this, I am flying home from the Rocky Mountains. I spent a couple of days in Colorado to get away from the Houston heat, hike up a 14,000 foot mountain (my fifth) and reflect upon life a little. One thing I discovered is that climbing mountains does not get any easier as I get older (big surprise). While I was there, I had the opportunity to visit with my oldest daughter, Kyle, who hiked the mountain with me (her second) and shared a little about her life and career along the way. Compared to my usual letters, this one will be a little about me, my family and my thoughts on raising my kids.

Almost 20 years ago, Vickie and I decided to move to Jersey Village. I cannot express how happy I am that we made that choice. Living here has given me an opportunity to raise my family, make some great friends and give a little back to the community; but, primarily, to raise my children.

We moved here as Kyle was starting first grade at Post Elementary; Alex, our younger daughter, started kindergarten there a year later. Living in this great community and attending Post, Cook, and Jersey Village High school gave our daughters a great education that allowed them to earn degrees from the University of Texas and Texas A & M and parlay that into their dream jobs as an assistant producer of a TV show in Denver and a marketing assistant in Tampa.

I do not share a lot of political beliefs with Hillary Clinton, but I do believe in the title of her book, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Child." It wasn't just the schools that had significant impact in our daughters' lives; it was the neighbors, the environment, the city, friends, teachers, coaches, employers; in short the entire Village that enabled my children to become smart, responsible, resilient adults. Our neighbors were always watchful of things occurring on the street and if either of the kids were misbehaving, we were informed. Teachers guided the imagination of young minds and the security of living in a close-knit community made life easier for young adults learning to drive.

In short, our job as parents was made easier because of our decision to live in Jersey Village. This was recently reinforced when I received a card from a family who moved into the Village in 1984, raised their four successful children here, but were moving away due to their age. Their thoughts were the same as mine as they prepared to move on: thank you to Jersey Village and thank you to the people who live here.

CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT WELCOME!

City government depends on residents who volunteer their time and expertise to participate in public service as members of boards and commissions. Boards and commissions fulfill an important role by evaluating issues which affect our community and making recommendations to the Council for needed action. Although most boards and commissions are advisory in nature, a few are decision-making entities. The value of these bodies is a direct reflection of the interest and dedication of our citizens in making Jersey Village a better place to live. City Council encourages you to apply for appointment to any board or commission in which you may be interested.

Council will consider appointments to most boards and commissions at its Regular September Council Meeting. If you are interested, please complete an application. If you currently have an application on file, please contact the City Secretary to confirm your interest in serving with the City.

To view an online application, visit the City of Jersey Village's website at http://www.jerseyvillage.info/city_council/secretarys_office/index.html or contact Lorri Coody, the City Secretary at 713-466-2102.