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# CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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## Mayor's Newsletter February 2008

Beginning in late March, residents will see the tell-tale signs of construction in areas of Jersey Village: detours, barricades and closed roads. It will be inconvenient, but it is necessary in order for the city to make much needed improvements to some of the oldest streets.

This construction means progress. Some of the city's infrastructure dates back to its inception in 1956. Streets, drainage, water and sewer systems are usually out of sight and out of mind, as long as they are functioning properly. All things deteriorate over time; the concrete used in streets breaks down and drainage becomes a problem as more buildings are built and the area subsides over the years. Recognizing the situation, City Council recommended an \$8 million bond issue last May, which voters overwhelmingly approved.

The City's finances are in great shape so we can pay the bond debt without increasing the tax rate. When the bonds were sold in September, the city received a favorable interest rate due to financial conditions at the time of the sale.

The City Engineer was authorized by Council to complete the bid package for the improvements and, on January 17, the City Secretary opened bids for the street renovation and drainage project from ten contractors. Like the sale of the bonds, the timing of the bidding was also very favorable to the City. The housing market is slowing due to the recent sub-prime mortgage problem and many developers have slowed or stopped their plans for new subdivisions; leaving paving and drainage contractors scrambling for new work. A few months ago, these projects would have only attracted a few qualified bidders, and prices were escalating rapidly due to the demand. The current situation has worked to the benefit of Jersey Village: the winning bid was for \$5.5 million, \$500,000 less than the City Engineer's estimate. If construction goes favorably and the contingency allowances are not used, there could be money left to expand the scope of the project to continue renovation of our infrastructure.

The work will be done in nine phases: in late March, the first two phases will begin on Argentina. The work will continue with the repaving of Chichester, Glamorgan and Leeds. The next phases will be on Shanghai and Equador in front of Post Elementary. We have instructed the contractor to do this work during the summer months while school is out. The last phases involve Carlsbad and Tahoe which will alleviate the drainage problems in that area.

We ask for your patience during this process because the construction will be dirty and inconvenient, similar to what was experienced during the recent work along Lakeview, Senate and other streets. Although the contractor will take precautions to make the situation as tolerable as possible, you will no doubt experience some inconvenience. Be assured, however, that this too will pass. The contract allows the contractor 450 days, so these improvements will be completed before summer 2009.

The City Engineer and the contractor will be available to answer any questions about this project at Town Hall meetings on Tuesday, February 12 and Thursday, February 14 at 7 PM in City Hall.