

MAYOR'S NEWLETTER
FEBURARY 2009

Community Service

In my last newsletter I mentioned that Jersey Village was planning a Community Service project to help beautify the city. Events like the tree planting make me proud to live here. Jersey Village is the unique place that it is because of the pride of the citizens who unselfishly donate time and talent to make this a better place to live. The message apparently got out as more than enough people showed up ready to work. Despite a little nervousness, I should have known this service project would turn out great. I was extremely pleased that the Tree Planting Day could not have gone any better.



First I want to acknowledge Nancy Bond. She has served this city in many ways in the past and was the main force to make the event happen. She came up with the idea, made the many contacts it took to coordinate city government, city management, many different volunteers and Trees of Houston. She put the plan together and spent many hours making sure everything and everybody showed up at the right time. The entire day was perfectly coordinated by Nancy. The schedule worked as planned and the many volunteers representing many different groups were very well coordinated. When you see these beautiful trees growing around Clark Henry Park please remember Nancy Bond and thank her when you next see her.

The last Saturday in January was a gorgeous day for tree planting. It was a crisp cool morning, warm enough to be outside but cool and dry enough to avoid sweating. The sun was bright with not a cloud around. It was a perfect day to get outside to perform a little work. About 60 residents, students from Jersey Village High School, and a Girl Scout troop showed up with gloves and shovels ready to work at 9:00. We immediately found that the real hard work was already completed as all 50 holes had been dug by the Public Works department using an auger. Next to each hole we found a tree, fertilizer, stakes, ties, and mulch that had already been dispersed by Trees of Houston. The representatives from Trees of Houston started the day by having everyone signing the mandatory release form and giving everyone a few minutes of instruction on how to plant a tree. I have planted a few trees in the past but now I know how to do it properly to insure the trees' survival and maximize the growth of the tree.



Next, the newly educated volunteers spread out in Clark Henry Park to personally plant 50 trees. Since the holes were already dug, the work consisted of preparing the hole to the proper size and shape and putting the tree in the ground. Then we filled each hole with fertilizer, dirt, mulch and love. After it was in place we pounded the stakes into the ground and tied the tree up to make sure it stays vertical thorough all the violent weather we will experience this year. The water truck followed up to finish the job and we were done. All the work was completed and we were packed up

and gone by 11:15.

I always feel good after I complete a community service project. I am proud of all the people that participated last Saturday. The trees will serve to beautify the city for many years to come. If Nancy still has the energy, I hope this will be the first of many tree planting projects in the future. Watch for other announcements for project and please come out and join your neighbors in giving a little back to the city you call home.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol W. Hamby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'H' and 'W'.

