

## HISTORY OF JERSEY VILLAGE

The original site of **Jersey Village** was owned by Mr. Clark W. Henry. Mr. Henry owned 1,236 acres on which he operated the F&M Dairy. The ranch was stocked with Jersey dairy cattle and at one time the dairy had one of the largest and best herd of Jersey cattle in the world. Mr. Henry also had an interesting show place on the land that is now public right-of-way between the east and west bound lanes of U.S. Highway 290. At this place the public was allowed to watch the milking of cows from behind glass doors; and a short distance away ice cream, made from the milk of those cows was sold. Mr. Henry also had free pony rides for the children and live country western entertainment for the adults who came to buy ice cream. This was a very popular attraction with people who lived in Houston.

Because of poor health, Mr. Henry discontinued his dairy operation and shortly thereafter began to make plans for development of the land into a residential community. Mr. Henry and Mr. Leroy Kennedy were acquainted with each other through the Garden Oaks Baptist Church. From this friendship they became business partners and started the groundwork for the **City of Jersey Village** in February of 1954. Because of Mr. Henry's success with jersey cattle, it was decided to use this name for the new community.

In the very beginning only five miles of streets were put in along with drainage, water, sewage, gas and lights. A few homes were built along Jersey Drive and the first family moved in the latter part of October 1954.

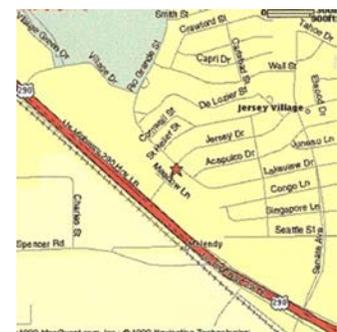
An election to incorporate **Jersey Village** into a city was held on April 16, 1956, and 58 votes were cast. All 58 votes were in favor of incorporating Jersey Village into a city so on that day the **City of Jersey Village** was officially born. Shortly thereafter, a city election was held and a mayor and five council members were elected.

Our former City Hall was given to the City as a gift from Mr. Leonard Rauch on July 6, 1972. The building had previously been used as a real estate office. It is currently used to house the offices of the City's Public Works and Fire Departments. A bond issue passed in 1977 enabled the City to build a new City Hall, City Garage, Park Pavilion, and expand the existing Fire Department Building.

In August 1986, due to the growth of **Jersey Village**, the voters approved a Home Rule Charter for the City. This home rule charter created the present Council-Manager form of Government.

### LOCATION

Northwest Freeway (U.S. Highway 290) at Hempstead Highway, in northwest Harris County, 17 miles from downtown Houston.



### FORM OF GOVERNMENT

A Home Rule, Council-Manager City with an elected Mayor, five (5) Council Members and an appointed City Manager.

### BUSINESS HOURS

City Hall is open Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.