



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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The summer of '17

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

“Be always sure you're right — THEN GO AHEAD!”

Davy Crockett, 1834.

This past May, the Jersey Village City Council conducted its annual budget retreat. Future summer meetings will be conducted to develop a draft budget with final adoption in the fall. At the retreat, Council and Staff reviewed expected fund revenues and expenditures. Individual department needs were reviewed and discussed. I am continuously impressed with how our Staff strives to save the City money by submitting creative, cost saving initiatives. Council received updates on Comprehensive Plan implementation as well as multi-year Capital Improvement plans. The City Manager provided an economic development blueprint that will allow the City to take the lead in advancing a far-reaching economic agenda. The magnitude of these activities coupled with flood mitigation, made it obvious that this summer's budget meetings will be some of the most important in Jersey Village's history.

The City will go forward with Comprehensive Plan initiatives including new city entrances, city wayfinding signs, branding, a new city dog park, other park improvements, and golf course facilities improvements. These individual items alone won't dramatically impact the community. All of the initiatives together, however, will have a measurable impact on the quality of life and make our community increasingly attractive to homebuyers. I have written about what older neighborhoods must do to stand out from the new, shiny neighborhoods down the freeway. These types of initiatives are designed to build upon our already excellent community features as well as demonstrate a commitment to a heightened quality of life and aesthetic appeal.

Nothing will affect the quality of life in Jersey Village like serious flood mitigation. This summer, JV City Council will receive a final flood study and proposal from Dannenbaum Engineering. This study will be the culmination of many months of analysis, meetings, feedback and dialog. It is absolutely critical that City Council uses this study to draft, fund, and implement a sound long term flood mitigation strategy this summer.

It must be stressed all of these plans and initiatives work together for a common goal: Improve the quality of life and appeal of Jersey Village. We cannot sacrifice one initiative for the sake of the other. We cannot solely focus on flood mitigation while letting our parks, economics and aesthetics deteriorate. Similarly, we cannot ignore the pressing need for real flood solutions and concentrate solely on neighborhood appearances. We have an active City Council, intelligent Staff and engaged citizenry. Together we can draft a budget that harmoniously implements these key strategies. So this is the summer where we put it all together and as Colonel Crockett said, we will go ahead - as a community.

All the Best

Justin Ray

Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas

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