



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Andrew Mitcham

amitcham@jerseyvillagetx.com

Mayors Newsletter March 2021

Hello Friends and Neighbors,

Happy almost-Spring! Warmer weather and vacations await us in the coming weeks and months. Activity in Jersey Village is picking up as well.

Later this month I will have the honor of joining Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher, former Mayor Justin Ray, and other local leaders in breaking ground on the long-awaited golf course berm and Wall Street Neighborhood Drainage Improvements project. Many of us have lost sleep over this project and to see it finally go out to bid last month and dirt finally moving later this month is a huge relief and a proud accomplishment. This project is moving forward with a total price tag of \$6,998,185, but thanks to the Long-Term Flood Mitigation Study and resulting data combined with the FEMA-grant-pursuit efforts of City Manager Austin Bleess and his team, the actual cost to JV taxpayers is a fraction of that (\$599,090). I salute our City Councilmembers who stuck to the correct path of pursuing federal grants to fund these projects instead of depleting our general fund balance or authorizing debt. This is not the last flood mitigation project the city will pursue. In fact, more grants are being pursued for home elevations each year and the city is moving forward with grants to expand the E-127 channel (the bayou tributary that runs behind Wall Street and De Lozier Street and originates in the area where Village Center will be built in the coming months).

Speaking of Village Center, our Council working group has made excellent progress in land sales so that construction may begin as soon as this spring. We met with the developer and interested parties in a Zoom call late last month to finalize those land deals, which should be on the Council's agenda in April or May. The Village Center project is a huge win for the city and for taxpayers. Instead of 50+ acres of concrete car storage lots and warehouses-- which were uses that had been pursued by potential buyers prior to Council's decision to purchase the land-- a sustainable, drainage-friendly, sales-tax-generating development will go in its place. City Hall will become the centerpiece of a vibrant community space surrounded by restaurants and retail space. Our family looks forward to many evenings enjoying food, music, and friendship in this space!

Lastly I want to congratulate our Jersey Meadow Golf Course team, who walked away with the Business of the Year award at last month's Cy-Fair Chamber of Commerce meeting. Matt Jones and his crew have turned the course into a destination for golfers. As someone who helps craft the annual budget, seeing the golf course revenue increase year after year has been a joy. There is still a lot to do to preserve that green space and make it a destination for all citizens-- not just golfers-- to enjoy and I know Matt is up for the challenge.

As my term as Mayor comes to an end this May, I am encouraged to see the projects we started at the beginning of my service as Councilmember become a reality. We are all paying lower taxes. We are all better protected from recurring floods. We are seeing better businesses and more employers enter the area. We have more citizen involvement in decision-making. We have better parks and green spaces. We have a strong sense of community and an emerging identity. We have stronger, well-funded, well-equipped emergency services that exceed all expectations. We are a stronger, safer, better city with a very bright future for everyone lucky enough to be a Jersey Villager.

Cheers,

Andrew Mitcham
Mayor