

Mayor's Monthly Newsletter Written by Mayor Justin Ray jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

September 2016 – Let's Get Involved Jersey Village

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

Even though it doesn't feel like it outside, fall is approaching southeast Texas. This is my favorite time of the year as it ushers in cooler weather (eventually), outdoor sporting activities and of course, football. This is also a time when groups and organizations start becoming more active and volunteers are needed. Our spirit of volunteerism is one of the things that sets this community apart. To that point, the City of Jersey Village will need residents to volunteer for several citizen-led commissions. These commissions are a fantastic way to get involved in the community. If you check out the City website you'll see volunteers are needed for:

<u>City Boards and Commissions</u> (Planning and Zoning, Board of Adjustment, Building Board of Adjustment, Parks and Recreation) *These boards and commissions fulfill an important role by evaluating issues which affect our community and making recommendations to the Council for needed action. Although most boards and commissions are advisory in nature, a few are decision-making entities. The value of these bodies is a direct reflection of the interest and dedication of our citizens in making Jersey Village a better place to live. City Council encourages you to apply for appointment to any board or commission in which you may be interested.*

<u>Charter Review Committee</u>- This is a citizen-led committee that is charged with reviewing and updating the City's Charter. *The charter essentially works as the city's constitution. It establishes the basic template for governance within Jersey Village. Topics covered in the charter include election procedures, City Council powers, staff responsibilities, financial procedures, and the city's form of government. A provision in the charter calls for a comprehensive review by a council-appointed commission. The commission shall have seven members and three alternates, and serve for a period of six months.*

I encourage residents to look into these boards and commissions as a way of getting involved and affecting our community. There will be additional opportunities to contribute to City policy including flood mitigation townhalls among others.

There are other citizen sponsored groups and committees that I encourage residents to look into, some of which I have mentioned before including JV Stroller Mamas, Post Elementary PTO, and a new group that is resurrecting the Jersey Village Christmas lights themed streets. I will have more on that group soon. I would also encourage residents to check out the new Jersey Village Senior Outreach organization. This is a nonprofit volunteer organization that promotes social events, education and personal services for senior JV residents. You can find additional information at www.jvso.org.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas

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