



February Council Actions

MARCH 2004

February 16, 2004, City Council meeting summary:

- Approved the minutes of the January 19, 2004 session.
- Approved Ordinance No. 04-02 providing for the holding of a general election to be held on May 15, 2004 for the purpose of electing three (3) council members and providing details relating to holding such election.
- Approved the appointment of Craig Eric Geffert as a reserve police officer.
- Approved Ordinance No. 04-03 amending the budget for fiscal year 2003-2004 for the Community Rating System agreement.
- Approved Ordinance No. 04-04 amending the sign regulations regarding banner signs.
- Approved the goals and mission statement for the Keep Texas Beautiful program.
- Approved a contract with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP for the collection of delinquent taxes beginning April 1, 2004 and ending March 31, 2007.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the imposition of an additional 20% penalty on delinquent taxes.
- Approved the dedication of an easement to Harris County for the purpose of the installation and maintenance of a traffic signal at Jones Road and Jersey Meadow Drive.

City Council Calls for General Election on May 15, 2004

At the February 16, 2004 meeting of the City Council, Council called for a general election to be held on Saturday, May 15, 2004 to elect council members for Positions # 1, 4, and 5. These positions are currently held by Rusty Preece (Position #1), Russell Hamley (Position #4) and A. J. Widacki (Position #5). The term for each elected member is 2 years. Election to each position is by a majority of all the votes cast for that position.

The deadline to file an application for a place on the ballot is Monday, March 15 at 5:00 p.m. Application packets are available in the City Secretary's office.

Here are some important dates to remember for the election:

Applications to vote by mail will be available	March 16
Early voting begins (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)	April 28
Saturday early voting hours (8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)	May 8
Last day for early voting (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)	May 11



The state legislature changed the election date for May from the 1st Saturday to the 3rd Saturday for this year only. Next year the election date will revert to the 1st Saturday.

With the adoption of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 signed by President Bush, there are a few changes that will affect the individual voter. (Continued on Page 3)

Upcoming Events

March 10 - Charter Review Commission Meeting

March 15 - City Council Meeting, Civic Center Auditorium

March 24 - Charter Review Commission Meeting

April 5 - Monday with the Mayor, Civic Center Auditorium

Capital Improvements

Each year, the City of Jersey Village allocates funds for upgrading the infrastructure that sustains our community. Our Public Works Department reports on the progress of these efforts at the monthly Council Meeting, and the STAR will include this update as a regular feature.



TASK/PROJECT	COMPLETION		COMMENTS
	DESIGN	CONST.	
Lakeview Water-Honolulu to WOB	100%	100%	Contractor has requested a final inspection.
Lakeview Paving- Honolulu to WOB	100%	95%	Street light installation is complete.
Fire Station project	100%	100%	Final Pay Estimate and Change Order presented for payment.
Repaint Elevated Storage #1	100%	75%	The Contractor will be removing and repainting the existing City logo in the correct location and painting the Falcon logo in the next few weeks.
Castlebridge Street Connection	100%	60%	Will be constructing the pavement when the weather permits.
30-inch Trunk Sewer Rehabilitation	100%	85%	Contractor has one section remaining.
Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation	100%	100%	Contractor has completed all sections.
Philippine Lift Station	0%	0%	This will be change ordered into an existing contract.
Jersey Drive - Paving	100%	0%	Paving scheduled to begin in April 2004.
Jersey Drive - Utility	100%	60%	Completed boring of waterline along Jersey Drive from Equador past Senate Avenue.
Lakeview II - Paving	100%	25%	Working on installation of storm sewer line between Shanghai and Australia.
Lakeview II - Utility	100%	10%	Begin construction of water line in the next few weeks.
White Oak Bayou Trail	40%	0%	Engineer for Harris County Precinct 4 will be submitting preliminary plans for hike and bike trails in the next few weeks.



Great American Cleanup Empowers Citizens to Improve Their Community: Help Jersey Village Win the Governor's Achievement Award.

Imagine the value, economically, environmentally, and socially if you could have the rusted mailboxes painted, park benches painted, streets and parks cleaned, and fences repaired, in addition to having flowers and trees planted. Now imagine that most of this work to improve your community environment was completed by volunteer labor.

This scenario is played out in hundreds of Texas cities each spring as tens of thousands of Texans participate in the Great American Cleanup. This event encourages Texans to clean up, beautify, and improve their communities. More than two million volunteers participate across America in this nation's largest annual community improvement program each spring. (Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 1) The Help America Vote Act of 2002, commonly called "HAVA" is enacted to establish a program to provide funds to states to replace punch card voting systems, establish the Election Assistance Commission to assist in the administration of federal elections and to otherwise provide assistance with the administration of certain federal election laws and programs, to establish minimum election administration standards for states and local government with responsibility for the administration of federal elections, and for other purposes.

HAVA Requirements

- Replace punch card voting systems
- Establish statewide voter registration system
- One accessible voting system per polling place
- Provisional voting with a confidential system for determining if vote was counted
- Voting system standards requiring uniform standards defining what constitutes a vote and what will be counted as a vote for each certified voting system
- Establish and maintain a state-based administrative complaint process
- File a state plan explaining how the state and counties will meet the new requirements. State plan is instituted by HB 1549 implementing HAVA in Texas and modifies state law generally. Effective as of January 1, 2004.

Provisional Voting. There is a new process of voting called provisional voting. Generally, it is similar to the challenge process but the voter's ballot is not counted until after the voter's registration status has been verified by the early voting ballot board and the county voter registrar.

Provisional ballots will be offered in the following instances:

- (i) individuals who are not on the list of registered voters and the voter registrar cannot be reached;
- (ii) individuals who are not on the list of registered voters and cannot be verified by the voter registrar;
- (iii) individuals who are not on the list of registered voters and do not provide a certificate or other form of identification;
- (iv) individuals who are not on the list of registered voters in the precinct where the voter is attempting to vote, but may be registered in a different precinct;
- (v) individuals who are on the list of registered voters, but not provide a certificate or other form of identification;
- (vi) individuals who are on the list of people who voted early by mail, who did not apply for or return the ballot;
- (vii) individuals who vote after 7:00 p.m. due to a court order extending the polling hours;
- (viii) individuals who are on the list of registered voters, but is registered to vote at an address outside the political subdivision where the voter is trying to vote.

If an individual votes a provisional ballot, the voter will be informed that the ballot may not be counted.

Proof of Identification. ***If you do not have your voter registration certificate, be sure to bring some proof of identification when you come to vote.*** In the past, when a voter was unable to show his/her voter registration certificate and did not produce any personal identification, if the election worker had personal knowledge of the individual, the voter was allowed to cast a ballot. This is no longer allowed. The election worker affidavit is no longer an acceptable form of identification. Acceptable forms of identification include:

- Current or expired DL or ID from any state
- Photo ID
- Birth certificate or adoption record
- US citizenship papers
- US Passport
- Official Government mail addressed to the voter by name
- Copy of utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck, or government document with voters name and address

If you have any questions concerning the elections or these changes, please contact Debbie Loesch, City Secretary, at 713-466-2102.

CODE CORNER; Know the City Codes!

The City's Code Enforcement division enforces the city code enacted by City Council to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Jersey Village. Code Enforcement works to prevent and abate nuisances on private property such as illegal dumping, weeded lots, graffiti, signs, trash and litter, and others.

Help us keep Jersey Village beautiful and safe by becoming familiar with the city code requirements and by reporting violations. To report violations, call the Public Works Department at (713) 466-2110. Several of the city's code requirements are described below.

Sec. 54-4. Littering

(a) No garbage, trash, rubbish, glass, nails, tacks, cans, wire, old automobile parts, junk or refuse of any nature whatsoever shall be thrown or deposited on any street or alley, or upon any sidewalk, or between any curb and sidewalk, or on any other public property in the city, or on any vacant lot or private property belonging to another.

(b) The presence of any items mentioned in subsection (a) of this section on any street or alley shall be held to constitute a violation of this section on the part of the owner or occupant of the adjacent property on whose half of the street or alley such items are permitted to lie for 24 hours.

(Code 1977, § 8-14)

State law references: Litter, V.T.C.A., Health and Safety Code § 365.001 et seq.

Sec. 54-5. Litter on or from premises of drive-in business establishments.

(a) It shall be unlawful for the owner or operator of any drive-in business establishment to permit or allow the premises upon which such establishment is located, or the adjacent sidewalks or streets, to become littered with loose paper, paper cups, paper straws, paper napkins and like items thrown or dropped upon such premises, sidewalks or streets by customers of such establishment.

(b) It shall be the duty of the owner or operator of any establishment mentioned in subsection (a) of this section to keep the premises and adjacent sidewalks and streets free and clean of loose paper, paper cups, paper straws, paper napkins and like items thrown or dropped by customers of such establishment, and it shall be his further duty to prevent such articles from being blown upon the premises of others. Any such owner or operator who shall fail to keep his premises and adjacent sidewalks and streets free and clean of such litter, or who shall permit or allow such articles to be blown upon the premises of another, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

(Code 1977, § 8-15)

.....more in the next issue.....

Election Workers Needed

The City Secretary's office is seeking out individuals interested in working in upcoming City elections. Individuals must be qualified registered voters. The City Secretary is the Elections Administrator for the City of Jersey Village and is responsible for all the activities involved with the conducting of elections for the City and recruiting election workers to assist on Election Day. A list of interested individuals is currently being compiled for appointments to be made for elections in 2004.

The Jersey Village City Council conducts the following types of elections: City Council elections, bond elections, sales tax elections, city charter amendment elections, and other special elections. These elections are most often held on Saturdays.

Hours of polling place operation on election day are from 7:00a.m. to 7:00p.m. The City has only one polling location for election day for City elections at 16327 Lakeview in the Auditorium. Early Voting is conducted in the City Secretary's office for a period of approximately two weeks, starting on the 17th day before the election date. All election workers must be qualified registered voters and residents of Jersey Village.

Training as an election worker will be required. Training sessions will be held prior to the election. Prior experience in a city or county elections is very helpful, but not required.

If you are interested in being placed on our election workers' list, please contact the City Secretary's office at 713-466-2102.



Sandy's Corner

Safe House Program

By: Officer S. Joachim

The SAFE HOUSE program sponsored by the Jersey Village Police Department and implemented in September 1995 is designed to provide a temporary haven for children who find themselves in an emergency or frightening situation. Examples would include being bullied, followed or hurt while walking or playing in their neighborhood. The individuals who have volunteered their homes as a safe house agree to make emergency phone calls for children in trouble and to watch out for children as they go to and from school and play in their neighborhood.

A safe house is not a medical aid or comfort station. The program is not an escort service or a guarantee of safety. The safe house program was started by the police to provide every possible precaution to ensure the safety of the children of the city. Adults who volunteered their homes have agreed to and passed a law enforcement records check. These homes are identified by a sign in the front yard stating "safe house".

Currently there are 31 active safe houses in the city of Jersey Village. The goal of the police department is to have a safe haven on every street. If you are home most of the day and would be interested in becoming a safe house, feel free to contact Officer S. Joachim at 713-466-2125.



(KTB continued) "Community improvement and economic development are directly linked. I believe that clean, beautiful communities are safer, better for business and tourism, and are nicer places to live," said Kyle Frazier, President of Keep Texas Beautiful, "Cleaning up a community has incalculable value."

Another value to a city during the Great American Cleanup is allowing citizens to feel involved and empowered. Stacy Cantu, KTB's Executive Director, expressed "Volunteering to clean up one's own community creates a buy-in and gives you a feeling of empowerment – that you can impact the economy and environment at the same time."

Keep Jersey Village Beautiful has declared their Great American Cleanup from March 20-27. Individuals, groups, and scout troops, businesses, school and clubs are urged to participate. How can you participate? The Parks and Landscape Committee have identified 3 areas they will supervise for anyone wanting to volunteer: Clark Henry Park, Carol Fox Park, and the Rio Grande entrance to the Golf Course. Lists will be compiled of projects for each of the areas. A member of the Parks and Landscape Committee will be at each of those areas from 9 a.m to 10 a.m. on March 20th and March 27th with a list of projects and to hand out items to be used at each of those locations – sandpaper, drop clothes, trash bags, paintbrushes, primer and paint. Businesses are urged to green up, fix up, and clean up their grounds, and to encourage volunteer participation. A group is planning to prime and paint rusty mailboxes if the owners request this volunteer service. We are also looking for individuals or groups to participate in "Adopt a Mile" on Jones Road. Adopt a Mile is Harris County's program to encourage volunteerism to keep our roadways clean. Rod Hainey, Public Work Director, has the program sign up form for any volunteer and/or group wanting more information on that. You can contact Rod Hainey at rhainey@ci.jersey-village.tx.us.

Help Jersey Village Win the Governor's Achievement Award! Let's all join together and make Jersey Village one of the cleanest and most beautiful cities in Texas. Who Keeps Texas Beautiful? You do! Who Keep Jersey Village Beautiful? You do!

TIPS TO BE FIT

The best workout, according to the experts, is one that includes the mind, spirit and body. Consider some alternatives to your regular training. Try yoga, Pilates or tai chi, all of which engage your mind, body and spirit.

Congratulations to Susan Blevins! She is the 2003 Champion of our Employee Fitness Program. She is the wife of Bob Blevins, our IT Manager. The City implemented a fitness program last year for our employees, volunteers and their spouses.

January 2004
Statistics

JV Police Department

Calls for Service	411
Vehicle Theft	3
Aggravated Assault	0
Burglary, business	1
Burglary, residence	1
Burglary, vehicle	7
Disturbance	46
Narcotics, felony	1
Minor accidents	48
Major accidents	6
Alarms	43
Suspicious person	54
Traffic control	3
Traffic hazard	17

JV Emergency Services

Building Fires	2
Auto Fires	3
Other Fires	1
Rescue/EMS incidents	41
Hazardous Conditions	3
Service Calls	2
Smoke or odor calls	1
False alarms/cancelled enroute	14
Total Ambulance Transports	25

Jersey Village Mens Softball League

Come be a part of a Jersey Village Tradition. The Jersey Village Men's Softball League has been in existence for over 25 years. Participation in the league is a great way to meet your neighbors. New teams are currently forming. To be eligible, you must be at least 18 years old and live in a home in Jersey Village. The league starts the first of June. Games are played on Monday nights. A tournament is played at the end of the season to determine the City Champions. To sign up, or for more information, contact John Singletary at (713) 466-7413.

Jersey Village Stars Swim Team

Come join us for lots of fun! There will be competitions for #1. There is always a good social atmosphere for kids of all ages to share with their peers. So come sign up and don't be left out, because swimming is fun without a doubt!

Registration

Jersey Village City Hall Civic Center
Tuesday, March 23, 2004,
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Sunday, March 28, 2004,
2:00p.m. - 5:00p.m.

Attention Jersey Village Senior Citizens

Would you like to get together with other seniors? Would you like to get a group together for cards, dominoes, bingo, quilting, or a jam session? The Jersey Village Recreation and Events Committee is trying to get something organized. Call your friends and let them know. If you would be interested call Jill Klein at 713-937-8850.

Jersey Village Garden Club Event

March 9, 2004. "Floral Design" by Jana Taylor and Loraine Phillips, 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, 15901 Elwood Drive, Houston, FREE. Questions call: 832-237-1536 or 832-243-0909.



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