



MAYOR'S NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2009

CONSTRUCTION CAN BE UGLY

More than a few people have noticed that there is some construction work going on just north and east of Jersey Village. I have received several calls to inform me of this activity or express various concerns in connection with these construction projects.

One of the projects is the continuation of the Jersey Village by-pass channel. The Harris County Flood Control District project is designed to divert about a third of the water that would flow through Jersey Village in White Oak Bayou in times of high water. This project has been in design for more than twenty years, and the initial part of it was built before I moved into the Village fifteen years ago. The goal of this by-pass channel is to keep storm water in the bayou and not allow it to flow over its banks into houses in Jersey Village. The project is on land owned and controlled by HCFCD; Jersey Village has no control over the project or its contractor.

City management and I are in continuous discussions with HCFCD, and I am meeting with them next week. I understand the issues concerning the trees and shrubbery being destroyed as the contractor works to deepen and widen the by-pass channel. The police and I are aware of potential security issues and Jersey Village will work to minimize the impact and ensure it will not be a continuous issue in the future. I also know about the noise and other problems associated with construction projects. We will continue to relay these concerns to HCFCD.

I will find out what the county plans to leave as a finished project when I meet with HCFCD. Then I want to meet with concerned citizens who live adjacent to the by-pass channel to reach a consensus about the best use of the land and permanent security concerns so we can work within the city's budget to make a desirable project. The potential use of this land as a parkland area is enormous; since the area will be dry most of the time, there are numerous options to beautify the area and make it a useful recreational area. The area surrounding this project will likely get ugly before it gets pretty, but we can work together to make the area another source of pride within the Village.

A second project involves laying sound-absorbing, rubberized asphalt on the Beltway between Gulf Bank and TX Highway 249. The Harris County Toll Road Authority has listened to the complaints of many of our residents and is responding with a method of reducing noise coming off the Beltway. This HCTRA project is the direct result of the efforts of many citizens who have consistently made the increased noise a focus issue. There are too many people to thank in this letter, but we all owe these citizens our thanks for their diligence in making this happen. In several weeks you should be able to notice a difference in the ambient noise level along the Beltway.

Please remember that, like the street projects, construction is a messy, ugly and inconvenient process, but the finished product is something that will beautify Jersey Village and keep flood water out of houses for many years.



## Changes in Zoning Requirements Affecting Recreational Vehicles

The City Council passed amendments to the City's Comprehensive Zoning Ordinance at its Monday, May 18, 2009 meeting that will affect resident owners of recreational vehicles. The current zoning ordinance which, for the most part, permits residents to park recreational vehicles in side and back yards without screening from public view has been changed.

Effective January 1, 2010, recreational vehicles (manufactured or home-made) including, but not limited to, motor homes, mini-motor homes, travel trailers, 5<sup>th</sup> wheel trailers, camping trailers, boat trailers, other trailers used for recreational purposes only, truck campers, all terrain vehicles and all types of watercraft including boats (motorized or propelled by any other means) shall not be parked or stored in front or side yards in zoning districts A, C, or C-2, except for temporary periods of time not exceeding seven (7) days within a 30-day period. And recreational vehicles shall not be parked or stored in rear yards in these same zoning districts unless screened from public view by a solid wood or opaque fence.

In order to implement these changes in an orderly fashion and to give residents time to plan, Council set a January 1, 2010 effective date for owners of recreational vehicles less than eight feet in height who must comply with the ordinance. The amendments also provide for a ten year "phasing out period" for owners of recreational vehicles that are over eight feet in height who register their vehicles with the City Secretary. The registration process for these vehicles begins June 1 and continues through July 15, 2009 with the City Secretary at City Hall, 16327 Lakeview Drive, Jersey Village, Texas. Vehicles that exceed eight feet in height and are not registered by July 15, 2009 will not be allowed to park within Jersey Village. Successful registration of a recreational vehicle provides that resident owners may continue parking/storing vehicles on their property until July 1, 2019 provided that certain requirements are met.

A summary of the registration process is as follows:

- Resident owners must complete an application accompanied by photographs of vehicle.
- Vehicles being registered must be greater than 8 feet in height and must be physically presented at 16327 Lakeview Drive for measurement.
- Vehicles must have been lawfully parked in zoning districts A, C, or C2 on May 1, 2009.
- Applicants must be the vehicle owner and owner of the lot where the vehicle will be stored.
- Applicants must present proof of ownership as outlined in the procedures document.

The details of the registration process are outlined in the Recreational Vehicle Registration Procedures adopted by Council on May 28, 2009 and can be viewed on the City's web site at: [http://www.jerseyvillage.info/city\\_council/secretarys\\_office/index.html](http://www.jerseyvillage.info/city_council/secretarys_office/index.html) . An application form for the program can be found using this link as well. For program information not found in this newsletter or on the City's web site, please contact Lorri Coody, the City Secretary at 713-466-2102.