



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Andrew Mitcham

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Mayors Newsletter December 2020

Hello Friends & Neighbors,

Well we find ourselves in the last month of what I will gracefully label a “challenging” year. I know many of you, myself included, are exhausted and could use a little optimism and good news about the year ahead.

On the ever-present threat of flooding, I have several items of good news to share. First, the White Oak Bayou channel (E-100) improvement project broke ground this month starting downstream of our city. We expect to see the project focus move into our area in the spring. This project is the catalyst for all of the other projects in the Long Term Flood Recovery Plan. All of these projects tie into the bayou at some point, and a more efficient conveyance with larger capacity is expected to reduce the level of a 100-year flood event by up to 1.8 inches.

Additionally on the topic of flooding, with help from Congresswoman Lizzie Fletcher the city was able to take a huge step forward in securing long-delayed funding from FEMA for the Golf Course Berm project and Wall/Capri/Crawford drainage improvements. This project has given our city staff the most heartburn as the Federal government has moved the goalposts repeatedly. By enlisting the help of our local Congressional leadership, the city now expects the funding award letter any day now. Council will likely see an agenda item authorizing the City Manager to award bids on the two projects in January.

Council approved another application for home elevation grants last month, which is going to be a recurring theme for years to come as part of this long-term strategy. And, lastly, the County Commissioners Court granted approval to the Flood Control District to begin negotiations with our city for the E-127 channel improvement project (this is the channel that runs behind Wall Street). All of these projects will combine to create a significant and long-lasting impact on our flood issue and it's going to be an interesting year in this area.

As a parent and local business owner, this pandemic has been a constant weight on my shoulders. 2020 has seen many sleepless nights worrying about the next day. I have visited frequently with other local business owners and hear story after story of adapting quickly to stay afloat and get through this unprecedented shift in consumer behavior. New businesses have opened in our city despite the pandemic and all are focused on the bright future our area will see in the years to come. Our economic resiliency and the pure grit put forth by local entrepreneurs resulted in another record sales tax revenue year. Please continue to patronize our local businesses and support them through this holiday season.

I am so grateful that we live in a resilient, friendly, neighborly, considerate, beautiful, and engaged community unlike any other in the region. Our best days are still ahead of us in Jersey Village and it is because of our citizens, our public servants, our leaders, and our volunteers that we will reach them and then aim even higher!

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from the Mitcham family!

Best Wishes,

Andrew Mitcham
Mayor