



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Andrew Mitcham

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Mayors Newsletter January 2020

Hello Friends & Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a fun-filled holiday season. The kids are back in school, business is back to usual, and we have an action-packed year ahead of us in the City of Jersey Village.

Several projects that have been in planning as far back as 2015 are set to break ground this year. Most importantly, the first round of home elevations, which the City applied for back in 2017, are slated to start any day now. A total of 18 homes—mostly along Jersey, Juneau, and Acapulco Drives—are approved for this initial round. Construction will be split, with 9 elevations beginning in January and the other half starting later this spring. Since formulating the Long-Term Flood Recovery Plan, the City has applied for a total of 53 home elevations with more identified for future rounds. Our staff has done an incredible job applying for grants and receiving award funding thanks to the study. Removing as many households as possible from repeat flood risk remains a top priority and I'm happy to finally see the plan in action.

Of course, there are other components of the Long-Term Flood Recovery Plan that await full approval before crews are able to break ground or await construction by Harris County Flood Control District. Our City staff remains in active communication with state and federal authorities to make sure those hurdles are cleared as soon as possible. TDEM and FEMA representatives travelled to Jersey Village to meet with our City Manager just before Christmas to discuss our open projects and we're hoping to hear good news any day now.

A much-needed facelift to the City entrances will begin early this year as well. A consistent, citizen-vetted design for wayfinding, gateway structures, and digital marquee signs will greet drivers entering and exiting the City for the first time. The City is still working with Harris County on a few main gateway locations for construction easements as some of our main roads are actually County roads. Knowing where the City of Jersey Village begins and ends will help establish a community identity we can all be proud of.

With all the new progress in our City, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to the core values of public safety, resilient infrastructure, and fiscal responsibility. Your City Council remains resolute in supporting our first responders with the best equipment and training available. Improving retail and business conditions in the City keeps our Crime Control and Prevention Fund strong, supporting competitive salaries and cutting-edge equipment for our JV police officers. This new year also welcomes increased full-time staff for our wonderful fire department. Council approved an increase in various property tax exemptions for JV homeowners last year, and our annual budget workshop this summer will review the potential for even more property tax relief with an eye on long-term needs.

The Village Center mixed-use development announced in 2019 continues moving forward. Myself and other members of the working group are actively assisting with the various components of this massive retail, office, and multifamily project. Preliminary site work should begin later this spring. The project will preserve wetlands, stormwater detention, and green space that would have otherwise been paved over for warehouses and car lots had City Council not taken bold action.

With so much going on this year, there are bound to be questions and concerns. Always check the City website for news releases and project updates. Please feel free to reach out to me directly at amitcham@jerseyvillagetx.com.

I wish each of you a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2020!

Best Wishes,

Andrew Mitcham
Mayor
Jersey Village