



Mayor's Newsletter

March 2025

Mayor Bobby Warren - bwarren@jerseyvillagetx.com

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I've recently heard from many of you expressing concerns about the City Council's decision to move forward with the demolition of the city pool at Clark Henry Park last month. Unfortunately, as with many issues of this nature, there has been a fair amount of misinformation circulating.

As many of you know, our city pool was built 50 years ago—an impressive lifespan for pools in this region, especially considering the challenges it faced early on. Minutes from the Jersey Village City Council meeting on August 26, 1975 reflect discussions about withholding final payment to the contractor due to issues with the plaster and other deficiencies identified shortly after construction of the pool was completed. Just five years later, in 1979, the city had to replaster the pool—a process typically needed only every 10 years.

Last year, the city hired Counsilman-Hunsaker, one of the nation's leading firms in aquatic facility design and engineering, to conduct a full evaluation of the pool. Their findings confirmed significant structural issues, including an inch-wide crack running the length of the pool.

In November, voters rejected a proposed bond to replace the pool, largely due to concerns over the \$10.1 million price tag. That proposal included not only a new pool but also new support buildings. Some residents have since pointed to a \$2 million pool project in Wilchester as proof that a new pool could be built for significantly less. However, that project is a renovation, not a full replacement.

While renovating the existing pool was an option, the estimated cost was over \$2.8 million and would have extended its life by only 7–10 years, with *no guarantees*. When annualized, the cost of renovation was comparable to the price of the new construction proposal that voters rejected. Moreover, if the renovation failed to halt further structural deterioration, it would have been a costly losing gamble for the city. Given these factors, the City Council made the difficult decision to proceed with demolition while working on revised plans for a new pool.

I want to recognize the leadership of Mayor Pro Tem Michelle Mitcham and Councilmember Drew Wasson, who have spent considerable time engaging with residents and exploring ways to move forward. After discussions with them, we plan to bring a proposal to the City Council for a new pool design that closely resembles the one being replaced. To keep costs down, many of the existing buildings will remain in use until funds become available for their replacement.

It is critical that we do not give up on having a city pool in the future. While my time as mayor comes to an end in two months, I am confident that the City Council will find a fiscally responsible solution that meets the expectations of our residents.

Your neighbor,

Bobby Warren
Mayor