



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Andrew Mitcham

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Mayors Newsletter August 2019

Happy August to you all!

Once again, I'm able to relay great news in my monthly newsletter (let's hope this becomes a habit!). On July 19th, the City Manager was notified of a grant award in the amount of \$1,792,344 from a Community Development Block Grant to assist in funding the golf course berm and Wall Street neighborhood flood mitigation projects. With these funds, the City can move forward with the required environmental work before the construction bid process begins. This brings the total amount of grant funds awarded to the City for the purposes of flood mitigation to \$6,553,093 with another \$3,704,150 awaiting final design approval by FEMA any day now. This is great news for all Jersey Villagers as we make a positive impact on flood mitigation while preserving a sound general fund reserve.

Speaking of the General Fund and budgets, your City Council recently completed the final budget workshops for the upcoming Fiscal Year 2019-2020. Here are some notable items from the workshop:

- The City projects a rise in Sales Tax revenues due to new and improving businesses attracting more commerce to the area.
- Property taxes are expected to fall slightly thanks to increases in the Homestead, Over-65, and Disabled Person exemptions passed by Council earlier this year.
- Our outstanding Police Department will add 2 new patrol officers to their ranks.
- Our wonderful Fire Department will also add 2 full-time firefighters to help cover the daytime shift.
- In addition to the projects identified in the Long-Term Flood Recovery Study, the E127 channel behind Wall Street will see \$1.4M budgeted for widening, increasing the storage capacity for the area. Harris County will match the City's funding to pay for construction.
- Wall Street itself will see \$1.56M budgeted to replace the street entirely while the drainage improvements are underway. More street replacement projects are listed in the 10-year Capital Improvement Plan for future years.
- Shade sails will be placed over play structures in Carol Fox Park as well as the Splash Pad to protect visitors from harmful sun rays and hot equipment surfaces.
- A final \$1M was placed into the budget for new entryway monuments and signage. Construction will begin after clarifying right-of-way issues with the County on some of their roads.
- The Golf Course Convention Center project will go out for new bids after adjustment to the design and simplifying the bid packet to attract more firms. Of note, the golf course is expected to top 40,000 rounds played this year!
- Other items include improvements and regular maintenance for infrastructure such as sewer lines, water storage tanks, backup generators, electrical panels and water chloramine conversion.

All these projects, along with day-to-day operations and services you expect from your City, will be accomplished in the fiscally conservative tradition of Jersey Village without ever dipping into our 90-day reserve or taking on new debt.

If you have any questions or concerns about the upcoming budget for FY2019-2020, please be sure to reach out to me or any of your City Councilmembers via email.

Thank you all for your trust and confidence as we work hard to improve our City!

Best Wishes,

Andrew Mitcham
Mayor
Jersey Village