



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Andrew Mitcham

amitcham@jerseyvillagetx.com

Mayors Newsletter July 2019

Happy Fourth of July!

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

I hope your summer has been filled with fun and laughter. It certainly has in the Mitcham household, with Jane (8) and Adeline (6) now old enough to explore the neighborhood and enjoy all the things that make Jersey Village the premier location in the region to be a kid. Part of my mission as a councilmember, and now as your Mayor, has been to preserve what makes Jersey Village such a wonderful place by maintaining the family-friendly atmosphere and enhancing it wherever possible.

Some of those enhancements have less to do with physical structures like our splash pad, swimming pool, parks, and golf course and more to do with businesses, restaurants, and entertainment where families can connect, have fun, find activities, all while staying local to JV. On that front, your city staff and council have been hard at work for the past few years implementing economic development policies to incentivize the kind of development that fits the character of our town and neighborhoods. As you may recall, last year city council made a bold move in purchasing over 23 acres of land in the Jersey Crossing area on Jones Road in order to preserve the property for a mixed-use, community-focused development in partnership with Collaborate Special Projects, LLC. Previously, your city council secured options to purchase nearly 11 acres of adjacent land and authorized the city to sell the original 23 acres of land to Collaborate. The closing of that sale is scheduled to take place by the end of August.

I'm happy to report that on June 28th, Collaborate executed the option to purchase the remaining land held by the city. On June 24th, city council held a work session with Collaborate to finalize a Master Development Agreement to move forward on what will be known as Village Center. Of important note, the city will implement this agreement and accompanying Chapter 380 agreement while issuing no debt; only rebates and performance-based incentives. We expect major announcements of retail tenants, office tenants, high-end multi-family, and luxury hospitality facilities to be forthcoming over the next few months.

This sustainable, eco-friendly development will not only boost the stature of Jersey Village in the region and positively dictate future development and re-development within the city, but also contribute greatly to our Crime Control and Prevention District fund and tax increment reinvestment zone (TIRZ) property tax base. We will also see many new employers enter our City, creating opportunities for citizens to work closer to where they live.

I want to thank the citizens of Jersey Village who recognized this important need and chose to get involved— our TIRZ No. 2 Board, Planning & Zoning Commission, Comprehensive Plan Advisory Committee, city councils past and present, and former Mayor Justin Ray.

Lastly, I want to applaud our city council for thoughtfully implementing new property tax exemption increases for the residents of Jersey Village. At our June regular session meeting, after multiple work sessions and spreadsheet tedium, council adopted increases in the homestead exemption from 8% to 14%, the age 65 or older exemption from \$50,000 to \$75,000, and the disabled exemption from \$20,000 to \$75,000. The average savings per year will range from \$128 to \$531 depending on the exemptions you are able to claim on your property. I look forward to repeating the process in next year's budget workshops.

I hope you all have a pleasant month of July!

Best Wishes,

Andrew Mitcham
Mayor
Jersey Village