



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

April 2016 – Our Sense of Community and the Local Schools

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends:

The distinctive sound of lawnmowers can be heard through Jersey Village which means that spring time is upon us. Let's enjoy the few weeks of pleasant weather before the oppressive heat drives us back indoors to the air conditioning. I recently drove down Kuykendahl Road in Spring, visiting my wife, Allison's family. Spring is a nice area with good schools and neighborhoods. I noticed new neighborhoods with big, shiny and expensive new homes. As I admired the stately developments I realized that people will end up buying these beautiful new homes that lack a key attribute. I contend that a shiny new development in an area like Spring, Texas will be missing a sense of community and belonging that we are fortunate to have in Jersey Village.

There are a number of things that contribute to this sense of community we have here. Part of it is being our own city and having our own police, fire and public works. Jersey Village residents have displayed "JV" stickers on car windshields as a matter of civic and community pride. A college friend who attended Langham Creek scoffed at our "arrogance" with those stickers. I knew his ridicule was rooted in envy of our community spirit. To this day we still have a homecoming parade that is cheered on by residents as it winds through the streets of the neighborhood. Of all the Cy-Fair schools, Jersey Village High School, is the only high school that bears the name of a distinct and close knit community.

Speaking of schools, one way we can continue to grow and nurture this community spirit is by continuing to embrace our local schools, Post Elementary and Jersey Village High School. As parents of young children we realize there are a number of viable educational choices. Home schooling, private schools and public schools all provide unique educational opportunities to suit each family's scholastic needs. I encourage Jersey Village parents considering public school to look at our local schools to determine if they meet your educational needs.

Our six year old son, Evan, is a Kindergartner at Post Elementary. The Principal, Missy Kilday, was more than accommodating and took us on a thorough tour of the school and the classrooms. We found an engaged teaching staff facilitating orderly learning environments for the students. Some of my elementary school teachers were even still there in a volunteer capacity, reading to the kids. Evan's time at Post has been an extremely positive experience. We are amazed at the new concepts he has learned and shared with us. I credit his teacher, Miss Spedale, for her commitment to and *patience* with our son.

Continued community engagement with our local schools is an important part of growing this community spirit we have in Jersey Village. For those parents looking for public school options, check out Post Elementary and Jersey Village High School. Take a tour of the schools and see what they have to offer. Contact Post PTO and the JVHS booster club to learn more about getting involved. Allison and I would also be happy to share our experiences and we look forward to hearing from you.

All the Best,

Justin Ray, Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas