



CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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MAYOR'S LETTER JUNE 2013

Written by Mayor Rod Erskine

The First

To open my first Mayor's Newsletter, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be your mayor for the next 2 years. I am excited to have this chance to serve a city that is a wonderful, family oriented community with great public services for its residents. We were incorporated as a small city in 1956, and have managed to maintain that small town feel as Houston has grown around us. We are a city where the residents volunteer, and rally around issues affecting our city. We are unique among many cities these days in that we are financially very healthy thanks to a historically fiscally responsible city government, and a strong city staff. Because of that sound management, we enjoy excellent city services including responsive, well-staffed police and fire departments to serve our residents, and are able to take on projects like the recently completed street repair program without issuing new debt. Many cities wish they were in the same position as Jersey Village.

Having said that, we do have challenges facing us. Over the next 3 years, the expansion of Hwy. 290 will effect all of our daily lives in ways ranging from nuisances to impacting the city's finances - increased traffic and driving times, noise, lost revenue, and JV's share of various costs. Council and city staff have been attempting to work with our elected state officials and TxDOT to mitigate the impact on JV - with less than desirable results to date. I personally have invested a lot of time in these issues and you will be getting more details in future communications.

While the expansion of Hwy. 290 will provide us with our share of headaches, once complete, the improved freeway access will provide an opportunity to attract new businesses and redevelopment of our current commercial areas, and potentially stimulate development within Jersey Village Crossing on the south side of Highway 290. It is critical to ensure that businesses see our city as an attractive location with opportunities for growth of their own. It will be important to understand what our current business owners view as positives, as well as identifying issues they see as challenges and addressing those issues as appropriate. Growth of local businesses is key to maintaining our healthy city finances.

Looking forward, I welcome you to contact me with your comments, ideas, and issues - I will get back to you. My city email address is rerskine@ci.jersey-village.tx.us, or you can go to the council members page on the city website and click on my name to send me a note.

I will close this newsletter with some sad news. As you may know, the Jersey Village Fire Department lost one of its members, Robert Beebe, in the tragic incident on May 31, 2013 when 4 firefighters lost their lives. Robert had served as a part time fireman with JVFD for the past 7 years. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and friends, and our condolences to his fellow colleagues. We should all take a moment to reflect on the personal risks the members of our Fire and Police Departments assume on our behalf as part of their daily jobs.