



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Rod Erskine

[rerskine@ci.jersey-village.tx.us](mailto:rskine@ci.jersey-village.tx.us)

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## Mosquitoes, Hwy. 290 Update

Cold weather should be upon us soon, but until we have that first freeze, the mosquitoes are still out there. Comments from residents indicate that some parts of the city are heavily infested, and have asked about the city's spraying program. Our contractor sprays three days a week, and currently will do so through the end of November. The spray targets adult mosquitoes in the air. Our current contract does not include fogging the storm sewers, but that may be discussed as an option next year. If you have areas of thick landscaping, or high grass, particularly in your backyard, the city's program will not be as effective in those areas, and you may need to do additional spraying. Mosquitoes can also inhabit mulch and other moist vegetation. Remember that rain and sprinkler systems will reduce the effectiveness of the insecticide. There are devices that can be incorporated into your irrigation system to include insecticide in the water coming from your sprinkler system that have been shown to be effective in controlling mosquitoes.

Make sure you check your property for standing water where mosquitoes could breed, including the gutters on your house. Improperly maintained pools and spas can also provide a breeding ground. Please notify the city if you become aware of a pool in a vacant house that is not being maintained.

Tragically, the city lost a resident to West Nile virus earlier this year, and that disease remains a threat. To date, we have had no reports of infections in the JV area of a new mosquito-borne disease, Chikungunya, which has started to appear in parts of the US. While rarely fatal, this virus is physically debilitating for up to three weeks, with no known cure. It is transmitted when a mosquito bites an infected person, and then subsequently bites a healthy individual. It is currently wide-spread in parts of the Caribbean and Central America, and may be brought to the US by travelers. I raise this to bring attention to the growing importance of controlling mosquitoes and the diseases they transmit as we close out this season, and plan for the next.

Remember – insecticides are poisonous and should be used carefully around pets and children. Always read and follow the instructions.

### Highway 290 Changes?

With all the construction on Hwy. 290, it is hard to imagine that plans may still be changing. Several months ago, it was reported that Harris County was reducing their portion of the funding, and would not be managing the planned toll lanes. Andrew Mitcham has provided the link below to a news report indicating rather than the originally planned three reversible managed lanes, TxDOT appears to be changing to a single managed lane similar to what we have today. Public hearings are scheduled early next year on the new configuration – the city will be watching this development. A single reversible lane will be far less effective in reducing rush hour traffic. The link to the article: <http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/transportation/article/U-S-290-plans-change-to-single-managed-lane-5859418.php?cmpid=albtftp&cmpid=twitter-premium&t=842f3cee94aee86f77>

In closing, I've recently been asked by a resident which council position represented their part of the city. Remember, all council members serve at large and not a particular part or area of the city – all council members serve the entirety of Jersey Village.

Until next month.

16327 Lakeview Drive Jersey Village, TX 77040  
713-466-2102