



CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

16327 Lakeview Drive Jersey Village, TX 77040
rhamley@ci.jersey-village.tx.us



MAYOR'S LETTER MAY 2013

Written by Mayor Russell Hamley

Thanks for the Memories

As I write this last Mayor's letter, I have just over three weeks in my final term as Mayor. It has been a privilege and an honor to have been elected six times as a councilman and mayor by my peers in Jersey Village. By my estimate, I have attended more than 250 City Council meetings and 150 official meetings representing Jersey Village to senators, congressmen, state representatives, county, and other cities' officials. I like to think Jersey Village is a little better than it was before I started my community service. I know I have learned a lot from the experience and I hope that whoever serves you next as Mayor will continue the progress we have made in making our city the best place to live and raise a family in Harris County.

One of the ways I know the city is working is that my phone doesn't ring very often. City services are usually invisible unless something is wrong. If the trash doesn't get picked up on Tuesday or the police are not responding, my phone starts ringing. Residents only call when something is amiss. When I was first elected, my phone would ring every day to the point where my wife would not answer it. She did not need to hear about broken things. Over the next 6 years the phone and email have reduced to a trickle. I also am starting to receive a lot more 'thank you' calls than reports of something broken. That was really a surprise and I appreciate those calls. That is how I know the city is working well for you.

We are very blessed to live in Jersey Village and in this region of the United States. The economy continues to grow and new development and jobs are added daily. Where I once thought Jersey Village was the last neighborhood heading out of Houston, now I see uncounted houses, schools and shopping centers to the Grand Parkway and beyond.

Twenty years ago, Vickie and I chose to move here to raise our two daughters. They went to the schools here and participated in scouts, sports and extra-curricular school activities with friends from the neighborhood; we knew both their friends and their parents. They have both completed college and have started successful careers in Denver and Tulsa. The reasons we picked Jersey Village as home -- great schools, a close-knit community, the best fire and police service in the state, a golf course within walking distance -- still exist and I think our city will entice new residents who appreciate the accessibility for work commutes.

With the completion of my service as Mayor, Vickie and I are looking for our next adventure. While we are not sure what all that may entail, we do know it will include numerous projects at a lake house we recently purchased. It seems like a productive way to use some of the extra free time I will have soon.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve you.