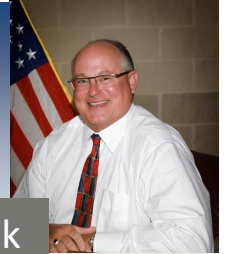




# City of Kemah Newsletter

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From the Desk  
of the Mayor

January 2015

## ~ News ~

On this eve of Kemah's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, I am pleased to report on the State of the City, which has been in a constant state of improvement the last 3+ years, and is in a very strong position moving forward. Since May of 2011, 44% of all local streets have been reconstructed.

A \$12.2 Million federally grant funded Transportation Center is scheduled to break ground in the Fall of 2015, and City Council has also chosen to move forward on a new City Hall/ Administration building

adjacent to the Visitor's Center/Historic School House. This 7,500 sf/ \$1.5 Million facility will be accomplished without debt service or interest financing, and will also facilitate conversion of our current City Hall to expanded space for the Police Department and Municipal Courts. These facility expansions will allow for additional operational growth in tandem with new business development, employment, and population growth over the coming decades.

On the Economic Development front, The City's annual sales receipts have grown every year – from \$3,077,626 in 2011 to an all-time annual high of \$3,510,085 in 2014 (a 14% increase). The City has also approved a 380 Agreement for Kemah Marketplace, which is a proposed 100,000 sf retail shopping center proposed adjacent to Walmart on FM 518 (start date TBD). In terms of the City budget, the City is now entirely debt free, and has been able to purchase capital equipment and operate with a low .265545/per \$100 valuation.

Not resting on our laurels, there is additional planning and work preparing for additional improvements that are also on the horizon. In 2017 TxDOT is scheduled to move forward on construction of the SH 146 expansion. City Council has also embraced the concept of one-way streets within the Lighthouse/Business District, in conjunction with TxDOT's highway improvement plans. A proposed secondary street connecting from FM 518 to SH 96 in developing areas has also been discussed as a local traffic route to improve connectivity. City Council has also supported the Coastal Barrier alternatives being studied by Texas A&M Galveston, and will also work with our partners to seek additional water resources that are critical to maintain current development and future growth.



City Hall/Transportation Center Conceptual Rendering

## 2014 Year in Review

### 2014 Included Numerous Milestones, Projects and Planning Efforts:

- Highest Annual (Jan-Dec) Sales Tax Receipts in Kemah History (\$3,510,585)
- Opening of Whataburger on FM 518
- Opening of Hubcap Grill in Lighthouse District
- Opening of Mermaid Bay in Lighthouse District
- Opening of Simply Twisted in Lighthouse District
- Opening of Cherry's Designs in Lighthouse District
- Expansion of Kemah Flowers in Lighthouse District
- Opening of Boardwalk Elixir in Lighthouse District
- Opening of Upper Deck in Lighthouse District
- Opening of Weathered Helm in Lighthouse District
- Expansion of Teresa's Taqueria on Highway 146
- Opening/expansion of Ivie Mady's in Lighthouse District
- \$12.2 Federal Grant to Gulf Coast Center for 500 space Park & Ride in Kemah
- \$800,000 Federal Grant for Trolley vehicles in Lighthouse District
- Secured \$1,350,000 (over 20 year term) billboard lease agreement with Clear Channel
- TxDOT advancing construction schedule for SH 146 from FY 2034 to FY 2017
- City Council Approval of future One-Way Streets (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, Bradford and Kipp) within Lighthouse District, in conjunction with SH 146 Improvements
- CDBG 2.2 West Kemah Streets Reconstruction Project nearing completion
- 380 Agreement for Kemah Marketplace - future 100,000 sf retail shopping center proposed adjacent to Walmart on FM 518
- Successful Annual Oktoberfest and Crawfish Festivals
- Classification of 4 by the Building Code Effectiveness Grading by the Insurance Services Office (ISO)



### City of Kemah welcomes the following employees:

Ms. Patty Kloves – City Secretary

Mr. Ismael Alcocer – Code Enforcement

Ms. Ana Tims – Police Department

Mr. Justin Staton- Police Department

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Incorporation: The City of Kemah will be celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Year of incorporation as a municipality in 2015.

#### **MAYOR & CITY COUNCIL:**

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#### **CITY STAFF:**

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