



From the Desk of the Mayor

October 2017 Carl A. Joiner

City of Kemah



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Wow, Kemah survived Hurricane Harvey! Those 5 days of torrential rain and wind were challenging and I am sure everyone will remember this event for the rest of our lives. Unfortunately we did have homes and businesses affected with floodwaters in Kemah. The main areas seemed to be Anders Lane and Kemah Oaks. It could have been so much worse for us, however. Our neighbors in League City, Dickinson, Friendswood and Houston had devastating flooding. Our hearts go out to all families & businesses that suffered loss during this Hurricane. I want to thank Jeff Pape with GBT Realty, the Developer of the new Shoppes of Kemah. He wanted to help out those homes and businesses that were affected in Kemah. Their company generously donated \$25,000 to help our Harvey victims! Thank you GBT Realty!

As your Mayor, this was the first time I wore the Emergency Management Director's hat. I want to give a big thanks to our Kemah Fire Chief Brent Hahn, who was our Emergency Management Coordinator during the storm. He and our Kemah Assistant Police Chief James Heard both commented on how the Team Kemah spirit really came through during this event. Everyone worked together as a team to keep our Kemah Citizens safe. The team included first responders from the entire Kemah Police Department and Kemah Fire Department. It also included Police Lieutenant Carl Nunn, City Administrator Wendy Ellis, Director of Communications, Human Resources and Special Projects Brenda Miller-Ferguson and City Public Works Department.

From working this Hurricane together, we learned a few things to help us during the next big event. It is critical that we can reach out and keep our citizens informed

during a crisis. The City made numerous automated phone calls, posted/sent alerts via the website, and did Facebook Live throughout the storm. We came to realize that not everyone was receiving the phone messages from City Hall. To receive these phone calls from the City, you need sign up for Kemah Connect. That is how we know to call you. To sign up for the Blackboard you need to call Shelly Crider at City Hall. The phone number is (281) 334-1611. It is very important! We want to make sure we communicate effectively and everyone gets up to date information during times of crisis such as this.

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The 4th of July celebration seems like so long ago because of the storm, but it was a fun family event. If you didn't participate in the Parade and the fellowship at the Community Center, then you really missed a lot of fun. The Parade was one of the best yet!

On September 6th, Kemah City Council passed our 2017/2018 Budget which began on October 1st. Our general fund revenue is projected to be \$4,875,527.00 and our general fund expenditures are projected to be \$4,861,941.00. This leaves the City with a small cushion for unforeseen expenses. The property tax rate was

Hurricane Harvey meets Kemah



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lowered from \$0.219214 to \$0.193000. The tax rate in 2015 when I took office was \$0.265545. We are going in a great direction! Besides having the second lowest property tax rate in Galveston County, Kemah is totally debt free and in excellent financial shape.

We have some exciting Capital Improvement projects to be funded during the 2017/2018 fiscal year, including:

- Landscaping around the new restrooms and Kemah School House
- City Hall renovation and addition
- Anders Road widening and drainage
- Park improvements at Foster Park and at the Kemah Nature Facility
- Bel Road Extension
- Turn Lane on 518 @ Kemah Village
- Computer and AV Upgrades at City Hall and the Sound System at the Community Center
- City Facility Improvements
- Shoppes at Kemah Connection to Bel Road
- Kipp Avenue Extension

Because of the hurricane, we will not move forward on any project until January to allow us the time to assess the financial impact to our City.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Kemah Police Department has had a very busy summer. They attended the Wal-Mart grand reopening and were given a \$1,000.00 donation to the Kemah Police Officer's Association. They received notification that they are now part of the Surplus Military equipment program to allow them to obtain needed equipment. They also received a court order awarding them a vehicle and \$625.30 cash that was seized in a case in May. They

hosted a family movie night at the Visitor's Center to get schools supplies for Stewart Elementary and Coffee with the Cops for interaction with our community

Their department is proud to announce that Administration and Tech Support Connie Biela received an achievement award for her 15 years of service to the department this summer. Officer Robert Kelly received his Advanced Peace Officer Certification and Officer Wayne Lockett is now serving on the Board of the Texas Gulf Coast Crime Prevention Association.

Upcoming events for their department include National Night Out on October 3rd at the Community Center, Trunk or Treat October 31st and the Texas Gulf Coast Crime Prevention Association luncheon on November 29th.

KEMAH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

August 14 the KCPAA hosted their Annual Ice Cream Social. The public plus area and state Citizen Police Academy Alumni Associations were invited to attend. In addition to ice cream treats and a special board meeting, they hosted Guest Speaker FBI Special Agent Richard Rennison from the Texas City Office.

KEMAH KRONIES

The Kronies celebrated July and August birthdays together August 16th at Top Water Grill. The event was well attended and member Ralph Balzano prepared an incredible strawberry topped cheesecake as a desert for the group. Their monthly potluck luncheons have begun again. The first of the season was held September 26th at the Community Center. Call Mr. Lee Streater at (281) 538-1048 for more information.

Star Spangled Kemah Parade



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NEIGHBOR NEWS

Lloyd Thornton and Cristy Gavlick were married and had an awesome Caribbean honeymoon!

Sherrri Short joined her sister on a fabulous trip to England, Ireland and Scotland.

Keith Mercado's mother just celebrated her 93rd birthday!

Carl and Colene Joiner's triplet grandchildren Rylee, Colton and Jaden turned 13 on October 1.

Chris and Michelle Mitchell just celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a trip to Las Vegas

NEW NEIGHBORS

Please help me welcome new Kemah neighbors Grace Holter, Gabriel Johnson, Vickie Kay Holmes, Fred and Patricia Trippodo, Lewis Kuo, Lara Yesenia, John Garcia, Bernarda De Medina, Laura Gomez, Richard Doty, Xavier Martian, Russell Moore, Denali Cottle, Travis Sheek, Anthony Clarke, Justin Shinkovich, and Robert Hall.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- National Night Out is October 3rd from 6:30-8:00 pm at the Kemah Community Center
- October 31 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. is the Police Department sponsored "Trunk or Treat" which is a safe and fun way to celebrate Halloween.
- November is election time at Stewart Elementary. The Students will participate in a mock election for Kemah Mayor and City Council.
- December 8th is the Annual Tree Lighting Event. This year the tree will be lit at the Kemah School House followed by Christmas Carols and Santa.
- December 9th will see Pancakes and Pictures with Santa followed by the Christmas Parade.

TEAM KEMAH



Your "Team Kemah" includes the City Staff, Wendy Ellis, Brenda Miller-Ferguson, Melissa Chilcote, Nick Haby, Jimmy Thompson, Ana Arevalo, Shelly Crider, Carlene Neeley, Margaret Vargas, Public Works, Kemah Police Department, Kemah Fire Department, WCID #12, Kemah Community Development Corporation, Kemah City Council, and me as Mayor. We are here to serve you!

Let's continue to work together to keep Kemah a great place to live, work and play!

Feel free to email me with questions and/or concerns: mayorjoiner@kemah-tx.com



Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor!

*Carl A. Joiner
Mayor, City of Kemah*

Star Spangled Kemah



KCPAAA Ice Cream Social



KCPAAA Ice Cream Social



**Kemah residents and business owners
Come celebrate our community**

**Tuesday, Oct 3 6:30 – 8:00 pm
Kemah Community Center**



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



**1401 Hwy 146
Kemah, TX 77565-3002**