



From the Desk of the Mayor

July 2018

Carl A. Joiner

City of Kemah



(City Office) 281.334.1611 . (Mobile) 281.635.4383 . (Residence) 281.535.4765

It is hard to believe that the calendar year is half over. Since the City's Fiscal year starts October 1st, we are starting to look at our 2018/2019 budget. As everyone remembers, we all worried that Hurricane Harvey would negatively affect our 2017/2018 budget estimates. I am happy to report that our sales tax numbers for the year are above our projections! This is great news for our City.

As of June 1st, we are now in Hurricane season again. As you recall, during Hurricane Harvey the emergency management team worked very hard to communicate what we knew to our citizens. I would encourage everyone to sign up for the Blackboard Connect service that we have. This is the best way to get information during a storm or crisis. The City Hall staff can help you sign up for this service. At the very least, please make sure City Hall has your phone and email information. We made numerous robo-calls during Harvey to communicate the information that we had. As Mayor, I serve as an Emergency Management Coordinator along with Fire Chief Brent Hahn. During a storm we want to be able to communicate with you and give you all the updated national weather service information.

Our Capital Improvement Projects are proceeding well. This year's projects are the City Hall Addition and Renovation, Bel Road Extension tying into the road by the Shoppes of Kemah, Foster Park Basketball Court, and Kemah Village turn lane at FM518.

We are really excited about the City Hall project and depending on the weather, the addition should be finished in September. This will allow us to move into this building and then start renovations on the existing building. That phase should take 30 days to complete.

So what are some of the benefits of our new City Hall? They include:

- Professional Offices for Assistant Chief James Heard, Lieutenant Carl Nunn, Detective Alonzo Sosa and Sergeant Wayne Lockett. They previously officed out of the attic and a dilapidated trailer in our City Hall parking lot.
- A Sally port for our officers to securely transport prisoners into the Police Station. This garage will also be used for police 4 wheelers which are now stored off site resulting in a savings of storage fees to the department.
- A dedicated interview room for our Police Department
- A private office for our Sergeants and Patrol Officers. Currently they office out of a hallway with no privacy.
- A Police locker room with restroom and shower.
- Updated technology with separate servers for our Police Department and City Hall staff. Presently we have one server in the Police Department that serves the Police and City Hall.

City Hall Construction (Photos courtesy of Roselyn Pierce)



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- A private office for our Mayor and yes, that is me. Currently I use a small corner of the receptionist's desk, behind her computer, to sign checks for the City and work on other City business. I might be the only Mayor in Galveston County with no office.
- A renovated Council Chamber with an expanded dais. Currently we are not able to accommodate all 7 members of the Kemah Community Development Corporation at our dais because we only can seat 6 members. We are also adding internet, phone, and electrical that will allow us to use the Council Chambers as an Emergency Operation Center during hurricanes and other emergency situations.
- A private office for our HR Director who currently works in an open shared office area with no privacy for personnel information.
- A private office for our City Engineer who currently works in a small section of our Conference Room and must relocate every time the conference room is needed.
- A dedicated Conference room that will hold up to 12 people for conferences. Our current Conference room holds a conference for 6 to 8, houses our permitted plans, our City Engineer and overflow storage.
- A dedicated room for plan review and plan storage which is presently part of the Conference room.
- A private office for our City Secretary/ Municipal Courts Director

- Storage over the new addition which will allow us to no longer have to pay for storage off site.

In the fall, we will hold an open house for our new facilities so everyone can see the improvements.

At the June 6th City Council meeting, the Council approved the deed for the right of way to extend Bel road west of Hwy 146 and to tie into the road next to the Shoppes of Kemah. (See the right of way map insert) We are also working with TXDOT to get a much needed stop light at this new intersection of Bel and Hwy 146. Both of these improvements will greatly improve our accessibility during the Hwy 146 expansion project which is due to begin this year. The Bel Road Expansion project is estimated to cost \$1.2 million. The City will pay \$400,000.00 and the County will pay \$800,000.00. In addition, the City has negotiated with Clear Lake Shores to extend Hanson Road from 2094 to 518. Kemah will donate the 50' right of way through our ETJ and Clear Lake Shores will construct the street in partnership with the County. I really appreciate the Mayor and City Council of Clear Lake Shores working with us on this important street access. We have included an insert in this newsletter to show you these new transportation projects. The Galveston Daily News has been interested in our projects and had a front page article about these transportation projects and our City Hall improvements .

Our Kemah Village turn lane at 518 is finally at TXDOT for permitting. This project will benefit over 300 people living in Kemah Village. It has been a

Harvey Flood Victims Follow Up Visits

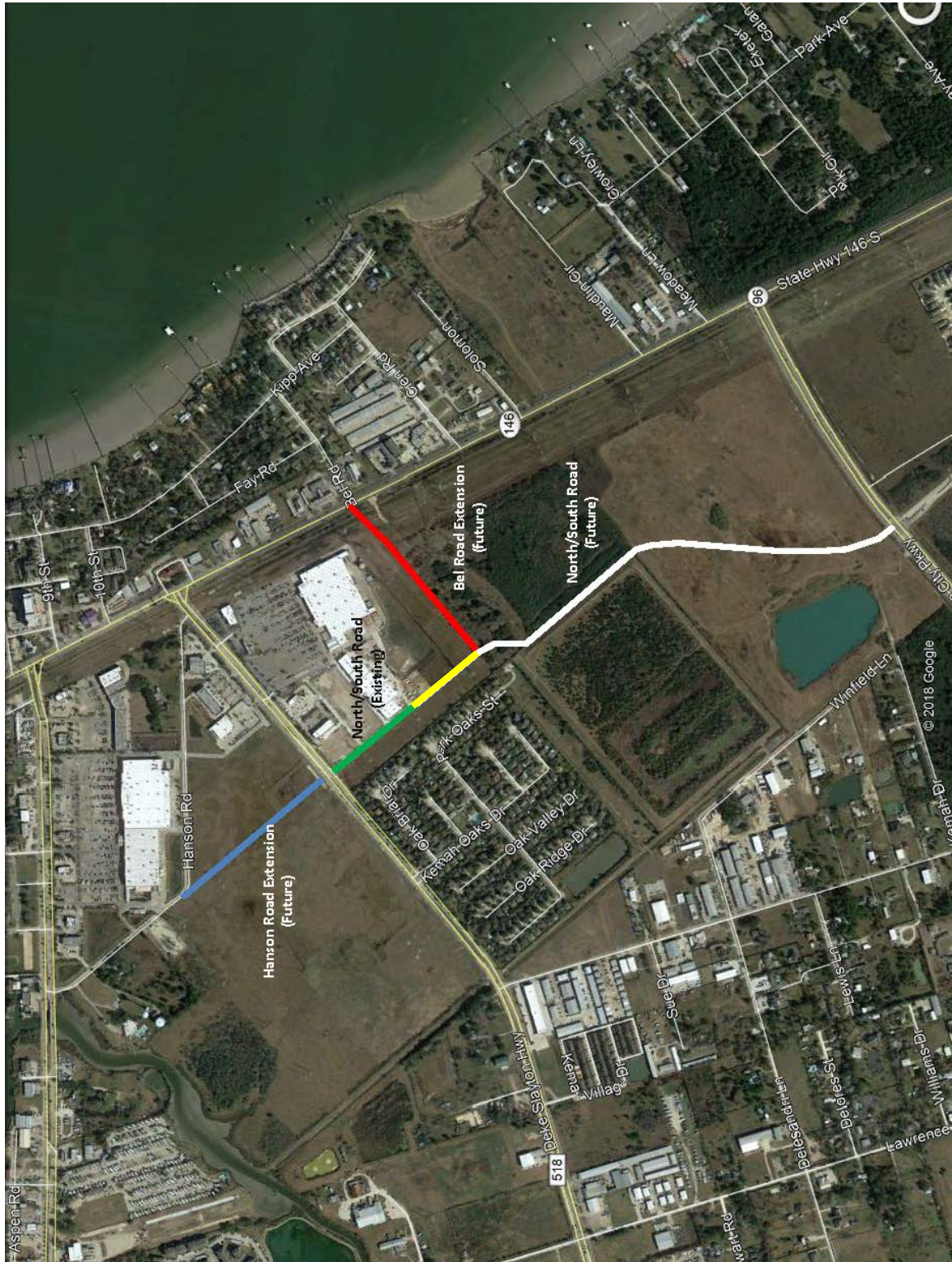


2018 Miss Kemah and Miss Kemah Teen



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Right of Way Insert



Red – Bel Rd Extension)
Green – Existing street next to Shoppes of Kemah
Yellow – Tie into Shoppes of Kemah street

White – Future Street tying into SH 96
Blue – Hanson Rd Extension

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slow process that we have been working on for over 5 years or so, but it is now close to becoming a reality. Once we get the permit from TXDOT, then we can proceed with the construction.

Another Capital project on Anders Lane is moving along. The City designed an asphalt to concrete conversion of Anders Lane from Delesandri south to Hwy 96. Kemah recently received word from the Texas Department of Emergency Management that our City is eligible for State funding through Hurricane Harvey recovery for the drainage improvements associated with this project. There is still no time-frame on when the City will receive the funding from the state, but construction plans are ready once the funding has been secured.

Our 4th of July parade and community get together had to be cancelled this year due to heavy rains. At least it cleared up for the fireworks. There was a lot of planning for the day so I want to thank those involved.

I want to personally congratulate our 2018 Miss Kemah Erin Wilrich and Miss Kemah Teen Gracie Guilbeaux. Both girls were selected at the pageant held June 8th to the 10th. Close to 450 people attended the pageant. All events were held at the Kemah Community Center and the Kemah Boardwalk for the entire weekend June 8-10th. Kemah's own Kelly Williams is the Director of the pageant and produces this professional event.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Police Department has teamed up with the entertainment district property owners and are working to create a safe environment with our visitors. Beginning this month KPD will meet with property owners quarterly to address any concerns. We've already seen a decline in disturbance and intoxication arrests related to actions taken, such as all bouncers have direct communication with each other and the patrol units with walkie talkies. In the future we plan on hosting training regarding TABC, Bouncer training, and identifying fake IDs. Together we have established relationships with Uber to ensure a safe ride home.

The May PD held an assessment center to evaluate candidates for promotion to Sergeant. Officers Ana Tims and Wayne Lockett were promoted in a pinning ceremony on June 4th.

The department currently has 3 officer position openings and there are several candidates being evaluated to fill those positions.

Lieutenant Carl Nunn has been selected to attend the FBI National Academy 273rd Session in Quantico, Virginia. This prestigious executive level leadership academy will start July 9th.

Officer Justin Staton and his K9 dog "Didi" passed their K9 Handler Training Program and are now certified.

**Officer Justin Staton
and K9 Didi**



**New Sergeants Ana Tims
and Wayne Lockett**



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KEMAH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The KCPAAA hosted their Alumni meeting on June 11th. The meeting included a presentation titled "Cultural Diversity" given by Officer Mike Mericle.

Don't forget to buy your golf cart raffle tickets to help raise funds to support our Kemah Police. The drawing for a winner will be at the National Night Out event on Oct 2, 2018 at the Kemah Community Center. Contact a KCPAAA member or email kemahcpaaa@gmail.com for more information.

KEMAH KRONIES

The Kronies had their coffee and donuts meeting on July 5th at the home of Sylvia and Lee Streater. Their birthday luncheon will be July 11th at 11:30 at the new Kemah Brick Oven Pizza. The Kronies is a social group and everyone is invited to join them for fun and friendship. Call Lee Streater for information (281) 538-1048.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

Steve and Elaine McGough enjoyed a European river cruise in June

Pepper Coffey's son Michael and his wife Mimi welcomed a baby girl on June 9th.

Alex Abate, son of Nicola Abate and Manisha Chandalia graduated from Clear Falls High school and is headed to MIT in the fall.

Sad to report that Ellie Purswell recently passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with her husband Larry.

We also recently learned that former Kemah resident Bud Vaughn recently passed away in Arizona. Bud relocated to Arizona to be near his daughter after his wife Jill passed away.

Other sad news is that Kemah resident Steve Bowen recently passed away very suddenly. His wife Cathy, his children and his sister Barbara and brother in law Thomas Railsback are in our thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.

Kemah business owners Greg and Julie Boaz were tragically victims of a recent plane crash in Michigan and did not survive. Their son Peyton is in critical condition. They were the owners of the Palapa's Bar on 6th street. This is a tragic loss for our Kemah Community.

Ann Gordy will be celebrating a milestone birthday soon.

NEW NEIGHBORS

Anthony and Patty Mullins, Christina Smith, Roen Garza, Jeffrey Quirk and Jennifer Deckman, Reginald Ross, Joe Solis, Linda Hanson, Simeon Drake III, Alan Watkins, Chad and Tehla Bridwell, Mary Stewart Gordon, Nathan Cummings, Reginald Williams, David Johnson, and Willims Ellis. Let's give our new residents a Kemah welcome.

TEAM KEMAH



Your "Team Kemah" includes the City Staff, 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

*Carl A. Joiner
Mayor, City of Kemah*

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Kemah. Houston's favorite bayground.

BREEZE INTO KEMAH.

- Boardwalk  Outdoor Recreation
- Downtown Entertainment District
- Food & Family Fun  Seafood & Spirits
- Gateway to Galveston Bay





1401 Hwy 146
Kemah, TX 77565-3002