



# From the Desk of the Mayor

January 2019 Carl A. Joiner

*City of Kemah*



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Happy New Year to everyone! Let me start out the new year with my wish for a Kinder and Gentler Kemah for 2019. As you recall, this is what former President George H.W. Bush wished for our Country when he took office. I think it is terrific goal we would all want for our City, Community, and our Country. I am looking forward to 2019 being a great year for our City. Our City Hall Addition/Renovation is now complete which has allowed us to house our staff inside our City Hall building. This allows us to be much more efficient and allows better communication between city staff, police, and municipal court.

I am excited to report that our city administrator's contract has renewed for an additional three years starting 1/1/19. This is a big plus for our City! Wendy Ellis has done a great job managing our City the past three years. Kemah has a strong, professional and friendly City staff to serve the citizens of Kemah.

In September our efficiency study for our police department was presented to Council. Under the leadership of Chief Chris Reed, the Police Department has made great strides in moving toward friendly community-minded policing. Besides keeping our Kemah community safe, they have to keep our 3 to 4 million visitors safe.

We want you to know your City Hall Staff, your Police and your Fire Department. Our Super Neighborhood Meetings arranged by our citizen volunteers are a way for you to meet our City Staff including the City Administrator, Community Services Director, Police Chief and our Fire Chief. Our goal is to have our citizens have a friendly

experience each time you deal with your City Hall. Knowing your staff will help this happen.

The beginning of the New Year is the perfect time to reflect on the state of our City. I would like to share with you some of the highlights of 2018.

1. State Highway 146 has bid and is projected to start in February. The project will be in two phases and will take up to 5 years to complete. The first phase for Kemah will be the turn around under the bridge and closing off the boat ramp to start the construction of the new bridge. For more details ,you can contact Nick Haby at City Hall.
2. We have a new front office employee, Chandra Jobb. Her position has her handling our permitting and Community Center rentals.
3. We have been fortunate to have quite a few new businesses in Kemah this year. These include Tookie's Hamburgers, Shoppes of Kemah, Xfinity, Advanced Tank and Construction, Cool Cow Creamery, 707 Chophouse, Blue Line Tactical, A&E Marine Repair, and Nam Thai Restaurant.
4. A new basketball court at Foster Park in South Kemah has been completed.
5. The left hand turn lane at Kemah Village and 518 has been approved by TXDOT and will go before Council for approval to bid the first quarter of this year.
6. The City Council continues to work with FEMA on a grant to pay for Anders Road and South Kemah drainage. The paving portion of this project will come from our Capital Improvement Plan funds and will proceed forward once we hear about the grant.

Kemah Police Department on the Boardwalk FantaSea



Elf on the Shelf Sgt Barmore and wife Leslie



Community Center Decoration Volunteers



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7. The extension of Bel Road to the west of Hwy 146 and tying into the street next to the Shoppes of Kemah bid on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Galveston County is handling this project for us and they will pay for \$800,000.00 of the cost of the project. This money comes from the County 2017 Bond issue that was passed. The project approval should be the first Council meeting in February 2019 with construction underway by the end of February.
8. On December 4<sup>th</sup>, City Council voted to proceed with purchasing additional new furniture for City Hall, Municipal Court, and the Police Department. After our renovation, we realized how worn, torn and mismatched our 22 year old existing furniture was. By replacing our existing furniture, everyone will have new matching furniture to go with their renovated or new office spaces.

Our Trunk or Treat event hosted on Halloween by the Kemah Police Department was rained out just like our 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities. Our lighted Christmas parade and tree lighting was also rained out on the scheduled evening. Luckily we had a rain out date two nights later. We were able to have most of the activities on that Sunday evening. This was our first nighttime lighted parade and although it was cold, it turned out successful and our Christmas tree lights looked the best ever thanks to our Kemah Public Works Department.

Pancakes and Pictures with Santa was an indoor event and was held as scheduled on December 8<sup>th</sup>. We had a great attendance. Our City Hall staff and Public Works Department worked very hard to decorate the Community Center for this event. The kids and parents seemed to enjoy the day and they met Santa, his elf and our Miss Kemah Erin Wilrich and our Miss Kemah Teen Gracie Gilbeaux.

Speaking of rain, our Kemah Oaks Super Neighborhood meeting produced a lot of neighborly concern over the

drainage in their neighborhood. The City committed to the residents to video the inside of a portion of their drainage pipes. I then formed a committee of Kemah Oaks residents, our City Engineer, our City Community Services Director, our City Administrator, and myself to review the findings from this video. The results of the video and the committee comments were turned over to the Kemah Oaks Homeowners Association. No issues were found with the condition of the drainage pipes.

## **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

As you may have seen, we held a public hearing at the January 2<sup>nd</sup> Council meeting as the first step in an annexation process for approximately 4 acres of property adjacent to Aldi. The owner of the property has requested that the property be annexed. They are in the early phases of a commercial development that could bring new retail and dining to Kemah.

In addition, in December, Council authorized us to move forward in working with the owners of the 88 acres at 96 and 146 to establish that area as a Municipal Management District to offer more resources to help develop the site. This is a program provided by the State to aid in development without the use of local dollars from current businesses and residents.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS**

Sgt. Barmore and Lt. Nunn have reached their 20 year anniversaries with the Kemah Police Department. Sgt. Barmore's anniversary was in December and Lt. Nunn's is in January.

The department has partnered with the Navigation App "WAZE". This partnership now allows the City to upload events and traffic hazards etc. This app also gives the City the ability to access traffic statistics. We also have made a request through Houston TranStar to have an information sign located on Hwy 146 within our city limits. We were recently notified that we have been approved for this sign.

Pancakes and Pictures with Santa



Kemah Queens  
with Codey Snowden



Cooking Pancakes



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A couple of our vacancies in the Police Department have recently been filled. Part time Officer Adam Williams requested to be a full time officer and Officer Jerrod Morgan was hired. Officer Williams was already certified and started immediately which was a real asset. Officer Morgan lives in the Clear Lake area and came to our Department from the Harris County Sheriff's Department.

Many thanks to Officer Marco Ramonda for pressure washing at the local Post Office, City Hall, and Fire Station. Marco owns a pressure washing business on the side ([washmart.com](http://washmart.com)), and he noticed the sidewalks needed cleaning. So he solved the problem on his own time and at no cost to the City. Thanks again, Marco.

## **KEMAH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

The KCPAAA held their annual Christmas Party for the Kemah Police Department and their families aboard the Boardwalk "Fantasea" on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. The weather was good and they had a great dinner and party for everyone. In November, they elected officers for the next two years. Susanne Baker will serve as President for 2019 - 2020. The Pancakes with Santa on December 8<sup>th</sup> was a huge success.

## **KEMAH KRONIES**

Maxine Brimberry hosted the group for coffee and donuts at her home and the birthday luncheon was held at BJ's Restaurant in November. The annual Christmas and Birthday Luncheon was held at South Shore Grill on December 11<sup>th</sup> with a large turnout.

## **NEIGHBOR NEWS**

Congratulations to Isaac and Leslie Saldana on the birth of Kylie Cruz Saldana.

Kemah Oaks held their annual Christmas Lights contest. The winners were:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Kristi Reiser & Tracy Snyder
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Brandon & Erin Williams
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Harry & Patricia Snyder
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place - Anthony & Megan Tran
- 5<sup>th</sup> Place - Collin & Marie Lavinghousez
- Honorable Mention - Jason Buxton

Kemah won first place in the Mayors' Challenge for the American Heart Association Heart Walk.

We are saddened at the deaths of our friends and neighbors Mike Smith and Ginnie Hebert.



## **TEAM KEMAH**



Your "Team Kemah" includes the City Staff, Municipal Court, 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:*  
[majormainer@kemah-tx.com](mailto:majormainer@kemah-tx.com)



*Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor!*

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Carl A. Joiner".

*Carl A. Joiner*  
Mayor, City of Kemah

Pancakes and Pictures with Santa



Scott and Kim Shultz



Tree Lighting





## Seasational Mardi Gras February 23, 2019



7:00 - 10:00 pm

Yachty Gras Boat Parade  
in the  
Clear Lake Channel



1401 Hwy 146  
Kemah, TX 77565-3002