



CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE

Office of the Mayor

T. Michael Andrews, Mayor

April 26, 2010

Dear Fellow Resident:

The last three years have been a challenge for all of us. First there was *Ike's* visit which was followed by the economic downturn. And if all of that wasn't challenge enough, we were presented with last year's April storm. I am happy to report that the City continues to be able to address events such as these and move forward in our desire to improve the workings of the City. My report this year will provide you with some information regarding the last April event and update you on your City's activities.

April 27 & 28 Storm

A major storm event occurred in the northwestern portion of Harris County on April 27th - 28th, 2009. This storm event, which eclipsed the previous storm of record that occurred in March of 1992, brought substantial rainfall which resulted in significant runoff and flooding within portions of the Buffalo Bayou watershed. Rain gauge readings and other collected data showed this was at least a 25 year rainfall event. However, there was evidence that showed the runoff through Spring Valley Village was on the order of a 65 to 70 year event, and in some areas may have been as great as a 100 year event. This vast difference between the general rainfall volume measurement and data regarding runoff in some areas is due to such factors as previously saturated ground and water flowing into the watershed from surrounding watersheds.

More than 2300 homes reported flooding in the western portion of Harris County. Spring Valley Village had 27 addresses which sustained some structural flooding during the event. In contrast, during the 1992 storm, estimated as only a 40 to 50 year event, 122 locations in Spring Valley experienced flooding. In the months after the storm, we undertook a flood study. On our City's website you can view both the executive summary of that study or the details of the complete Flood Report. www.springvalleytx.com

Updating Infrastructure

1. **PLEASE NOTE:** At the request of many residents who have an interest in attending, the monthly Infrastructure Committee meetings have been rescheduled to meet at night at 7:00 p.m. on the first Tuesday of the month.
2. **PLEASE NOTE:** City Council has begun discussing the elements of the next street projects -- design, budget constraints and timing sequence. Town Hall meetings for residents have been scheduled for:
 - i. Bace Drive - Tuesday, May 18th
 - ii. Cedarwood Subdivision (Sections 2 & 4) which is bordered by Westview to the north, Ben Hur on the west, Burkhart Road to the south and Voss to the East - Tuesday, June 15th
 - iii. Merlin and Lupton (between Voss and Bingle)-To be determined
 - iv. Modiste/Lofland/Neeley area-To be determined

3. We continue to work to obtain funding to help support our infrastructure requirements. Since the 1999 inception of the current METRO program, Spring Valley Village has received a total of \$8.426M in METRO funding for use on the City's infrastructure projects. During this same time period, METRO has collected a total of \$6.949M in sales tax revenue from Spring Valley Village. Metro funding for Bace Drive, the last METRO project to be funded under the current agreement, has been received and that project is ready for scheduling. We will continue to receive \$154,000 per year from METRO through September 30, 2014. Funding after 2014 is unknown at this time.
4. The Mickey Way area water, sewer and street projects have been completed. Unfortunately, we have had to correct multiple pavement failures since that completion, and now additional pavement failures are appearing. Our Infrastructure Committee and City Engineers are working on these recent failures to determine the cause so that a corrective action plan can be presented to Council.
5. The ongoing point repair program continues to address the more critical street repairs as they are identified. City personnel will repair bad portions of concrete streets that are beyond the five year capital improvement plan. A street that is scheduled to be replaced will be patched with asphalt. All of this work is done with City personnel which reduces expenses while prolonging the life of the streets. The City also has a crack sealing program which begins in May. This method seals cracks in streets which also helps prolong the life.
6. The City's Water Well Maintenance Project is nearing completion. During regular maintenance, which was scheduled for this year, it was determined that a screen liner would be required to properly repair the well. While the well has been out of commission during this period, we have been on the City of Houston water service. We expect the repairs to be completed by the end of April with full capacity being restored to the well.

City Operations

1. Reduced time/costs are now being realized in the operation of the Municipal Court as a result of our upgrade to a paperless system. In addition, acceptance of credit cards now allows for prompt payment of fines while reducing collection costs and producing immediate income. Also, the City has realized a significant increase in our revenue as a result of our contract for warrant service with Linebarger Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP. They pursue and collect warrants that are over 60 days old.
2. A \$55,500 grant received from the Office of the Harris County District Attorney has allowed us to install digital video cameras in our police cars and to upgrade the police officer's workstations. Those funds are also being used to upgrade the City's communication systems.



3. **PLEASE NOTE:** The Spring Valley Village Police Department will soon begin to utilize DeltAlert, a secure web-based system which will be used to notify citizens and businesses of emergency situations that may impact our local area. Such notifications may be made in order to alert you of criminal activity, missing children, shelter-in-place orders, evacuations, or other public safety information. These alerts can be delivered by telephonic voice notification (to your home, business, or cell phones), text message, and e-mail. Additional information will be sent to you with instructions so that you can register and provide us with your choice of notification methods.
4. City expenses associated with the City Attorney and Engineer continue to be reduced by rearrangement of the Council agenda to limit their required hours of attendance at Council meetings.
5. City processes continue to be reviewed and made more efficient and cost effective.
6. Employee expenses for retirement and health insurance continue a steady rise. We were unable to provide our employees with raises and had to reduce their retirement benefits in order for the City to be able to absorb the 29% health insurance increase.

Significant Personnel Changes

Bill Martin has joined the staff as our new City Treasurer. Bill was previously the Finance Director for the City of LaMarque, Texas.

Chief Calagna has retired from the Village Fire Department after 20 years of service to our community. The Fire Commission has hired a search company to assist in the process of locating a new Fire Chief.

Commercial Development

The City has been proactive regarding the plans for the redevelopment of the City's commercial areas. An Economic Development Agreement has been approved by Council to encourage businesses that generate sales tax revenue to relocate to the Bingle Road business park.

The properties, located on both sides of Campbell at the I-10 service road, have been slow to re-develop because of the downturn in the economy and the resulting reduction in demand for retail locations.

Residential Development

Creekside Villas and Windsor Court Subdivisions continue their home build-outs and are nearing completion. Several other new homes are also under construction throughout the City.



Sound Wall and Greenspace Update

The Greenspace Committee of the Civic Activities Board is busy working on how to best use the areas and to determine what types of amenities should be provided. Landscaping along the freeway sound and retaining walls will be done by TXDOT in the fall.

City Parks Update

Using TXDOT funds, we have expanded the City Hall Park to include: a pavilion with restrooms for men, women and families, additional parking, walking paths, picnic tables, ornamental steel fencing and signage. The park was dedicated October 31, 2009.

The Bingle West Park replacement project has been approved by Council and is scheduled for completion within the next ninety (90) days. New signage will be installed along with landscaping that includes lighting and irrigation. This replacement project is also being funded by TXDOT.

I want to again take this opportunity to thank all of our City employees for their dedication and hard work. I am truly proud to represent them and this wonderful City. For the Council and myself, thanks for allowing us to serve you and your family.

Sincerely,



T. Michael Andrews
Mayor
City of Spring Valley Village

