



# *CITY OF SPRING VALLEY*

## *Office of the Mayor*

T. Michael Andrews, Mayor

March 5, 2009

Dear Fellow Resident:

Last year (2008) will be remembered by all of us for a long time. The completion of the I-10 expansion, the start of the financial crisis, and Hurricane Ike affected all of us in one way or another. As we start a new year, I would like to share some information with you about our City.

### **Hurricane Ike**

1. The City's Emergency Action Plan was executed by the City's staff, police and utility departments resulting in rapid road clearing, police patrols and the continuous operations of the City's water supply and sewer systems.
2. The City entered into an interlocal agreement with Harris County for storm debris removal which was offered to us by Harris County Commissioner Steve Radack and County Judge Ed Emmett. Without their assistance, the clean-up would have further stretched our City personnel and caused additional cash flow issues for the City. We are very grateful for their support.
3. The City suffered some damage (loss of the gazebo), but over all, we were fortunate to have had the small amount of damage that we sustained.

### **Updating Infrastructure**

1. We continue to work with Metro and other agencies to obtain funding to support our infrastructure needs. We received funding (\$3,305,000.00) from Metro for costs associated with upgrading Voss/Bracher. The Voss/Bracher project is now complete. Metro funding (\$888,000.00) for Bace Drive has been received, and that project is now being scheduled for completion in our five year plan.
2. The Mickey Way area's water, sewer and streets are being upgraded and should be completed by summer.
3. The Cedarwood Subdivision is scheduled for water/sewer replacement and paving and drainage improvements beginning in the next few months. This area is bordered by Westview to the north, Ben Hur on the west, Burkhart Road to the south, and Voss to the east.
4. Due to deterioration of the fifty year plus support structures, the Pech Road force main sewer line had to be replaced. A new sewer line was installed under Spring Branch Creek using directional drilling, a more cost effective choice than replacing the existing aerial sewer line.

### **City Operations**

1. The court's computer system has been upgraded to a Windows-based design and reduced time/costs are now being realized in the operation of the Municipal Court. The acceptance of credit cards allows for prompt payment of fines, produces immediate income, and has reduced collection costs.
2. The financial software upgrade is now complete which will further reduce operation expenses.
3. The computer upgrade for the Police Department is now complete.
4. Due to a \$55,500 grant received from the office of the Harris County District Attorney, we are upgrading the City's communication systems, installing digital video cameras in police cars, and upgrading the police officer's workstations.
5. City expenses associated with the City Attorney and Engineer have been reduced by rearranging the agenda to limit their required attendance time at Council meetings.
6. City processes continue to be reviewed and made more efficient and cost effective.
7. The City building official can now utilize a mobile computer program to track inspections, record permits, and process data on demand.
8. The City web site offers a link to utilities ([www.2turniton.com](http://www.2turniton.com)) available in our area including water, which will allow you to activate service. It can be found under the residential services tab.

### **Significant Personnel Changes**

After 29 years of service with the City of Spring Valley Village, our Chief of Police, John Cook, retired on March 31, 2008. On April 1, 2008, Detective Gary Finkelman was promoted to the Chief of Police position.

### **Commercial Development**

The City has been proactive regarding the plans for the redevelopment of the City's commercial areas. Ordinances have been approved by Council to encourage development. Ten Voss LTD has purchased the Bingle Road business park and plans to develop it into a retail town center.

1. The Ten Voss LTD development in front of Home Depot that consists of the five out-lots (free-standing buildings with adjacent parking) are in the process of being built out for retail businesses. Current leases include Starbucks, Subway, SportClips, Mattress Giant, AT&T, and Hunan Chef. Spec's Wines, Spirits & Finer Foods is coming soon.
2. Creekside Villas, developed by Stiffel-Schwab Builders, LLC, has several patio homes completed and sold to new residents. The building style resembles a Tuscan village and has many high-end amenities. Homes start around \$700,000.



3. As reported last year, Church of the Nazarene and Spring Branch Christian Church have left the City, and their properties are under redevelopment. The Spring Branch Christian Church property located at Campbell and Westview is being developed by David Weekley Homes for patio homes with a minimum of 3500 square feet and starting at \$600,000. Several homes have been sold and are now occupied. The Church of the Nazarene property, located at the corner of Campbell and the I-10 service road, has been sold and the developer's proposal is scheduled to be presented to the City this month.

#### **Sound Wall and Greenspace Update**

The construction of the sound wall and the new West Tex Street have been completed by TXDOT. The 6.8 acres greenspace behind sections of the sound wall have been populated with several hundred trees (1500+) by TXDOT. The Greenspace Committee of the Civic Activities Board is busy working on how to best use the area and to determine what types of amenities should be provided.

#### **City Parks Update**

Using TXDOT agreement funds, we are expanding 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 to the park. The park should be completed by the end of summer.

The Pech Road Bridge Park is nearing completion. The landscape and bricked areas have been completed. This park has been built with funds raised by families in the neighborhood.

I want to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all of our City employees for their dedication and outstanding performance during Ike. 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

