



CITY OF SPRING VALLEY VILLAGE

Office of the Mayor

T. Michael Andrews, Mayor

April 26, 2011

Dear Fellow Resident:

I am happy to report that your City continues to move forward in improving the workings of the City. My report this year will include information on the infrastructure work that has been completed and that which is currently underway. I will also include information regarding your City's activities in several other areas.

Infrastructure Projects

1. Street Refurbishment

- a. Modiste/Lofland/Neeley area contract has been approved and released by City Council. The project construction should begin in early May and is expected to take 240 days. Due to current economic conditions, the cost of \$1,311,635 reflects a savings of over \$700,000 from the bid we received in 2007.
- b. Bace Drive plans are in final design as a concrete curb and gutter street with a 24 foot width. The project is expected to be bid toward the end of May and construction should start mid-July.

2. Water Distribution System

The City's water well maintenance project has been completed. The water well is again operating at its full capacity and hydro tank no. 2 has been refurbished.

3. Storm Drainage

- a. Damage occurred on Briar Branch Creek in the Voss Road bridge bank area during Hurricane Ike. Repairs to that area have been completed.
- b. The Adkins Road drainage improvement at the I-10 service road has also been completed.

4. Landscaping

- a. The Bingle West Park has been completed. To welcome residents and visitors into our City, new signage has been installed across Bingle Road along with landscaping that includes lighting and irrigation. This project was totally funded by TXDOT.
- b. Modest landscaping along the freeway sound and retaining walls has been completed by TXDOT. It will be maintained by TXDOT. Additional mowing in areas in front of the sound walls will be provided by City crews.

5. Street Point Repairs

The ongoing point repair program continues to address the more critical street repairs as they are identified. Plans are being developed to repair the following areas: 1106 to 1127 Ben Hur, 8724 Cavell Lane, 8337, 8444 and 8440 Cedarbrake, 2 and 10 Gens Court, 8330 Leafy Lane, 1007 to 1044 Teresa, 8722 to 8710 and 8801 to 8810 Winningham Lane.

6. Since 1999, Spring Valley Village has received a total of \$8.426M in METRO funding for use on the City's infrastructure projects. We will continue to receive \$154,000 per year from METRO through September 30, 2014. Funding after 2014 will require a vote of approval by residents in the METRO service areas. The election is expected to take place in the fall of 2012 and it is imperative that our City residents vote in favor of the continuation of this funding which comes from our share of sales tax revenues.

City Operations

1. Reduced time and costs are continuing to be realized in the operation of the Municipal Court. Uncontested fines can now be paid via the Internet, reducing court and collection costs while producing immediate income. In less than 2 months over \$46,000 has been collected. However, it must be noted that we are obligated by state law to send approximately 75% of these funds to the state. Also, the City continues to

realize an 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. The Spring Valley Village Police Department will soon begin utilizing a new communications service, Nixle Wire, which will allow important and valuable community information to be sent directly to residents using the latest technology. Nixle Wire will allow us to create and publish messages to be delivered instantly to subscribed residents via cell phone text message and/or email. Notifications can also be accessed online on Nixle's Web site at www.nixle.com.

Nixle Wire is intended to supplement, not replace, our other existing forms of communication (DeltAlert emergency notifications and Constant Contact e-mails from the City). The primary purpose of this new service is to keep residents informed on the status of current police activity.

To receive up-to-date information affecting your neighborhood:

- go to www.nixle.com
- click "Sign Up Now"
- create an account by choosing a User Name and Password
- enter an e-mail address and/or cell phone number where you would like to receive messages
- enter your address (or a nearby intersection)
- click "Sign Me Up".
- uncheck the default Nixle groups that are automatically recommended and confirm that the Spring Valley Village Police Department group is checked.

If you want to receive notifications via text message, follow the instructions you receive in the invitation text message.

A Nixle link posted on the city's website at www.springvalleytx.com will take you directly to the Nixle registration page.

3. The City has entered into an Interlocal Agreement with Harris County which extends the Ike storm agreement for storm debris removal and disposal. This agreement was made possible by Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Commissioner Steve Radack. Without this agreement, any future major storm clean up could stretch our City personnel capabilities and cause cash flow issues for our City. We are very grateful for their continued support.
4. Last year's external audit was completed in record time due to the preparation by our staff and the conditions of accounting records. The audit report can be reviewed on the City's website.
5. We have had a member of Planning & Zoning Commission (P&Z) resign recently. Any resident that would be interested in serving on P&Z should notify the City so that you can be considered. I served as a P&Z Commissioner before being elected to City Council. Service on City committees or boards is a great way to learn how the City operates and how and why City ordinances are developed. If you want to be involved in the operation of the City, this a great place to start.
6. The City participates in a joint insurance group with the other village entities. This year, the board's recommended change to a process of securing insurance bids through a consultant proved to be very beneficial, resulting in an 18% cost savings to the City for employee health insurance. An Additional savings of \$160,000 was realized in the Village Fire Department, of which we own 16.25%. It should be noted that our City Administrator chaired this board during this change.



Significant Personnel Changes

Bill Martin, until recently our City Treasurer, has resigned for personal reasons. We will miss Bill and his dedication to improving our City. I am very pleased to welcome Donna Todd as our new City Treasurer. Donna was previously the Finance Director for the City of Bellaire, Texas. We are excited to have Donna join our staff and look forward to working with her. Her experience in finance, accounting, budgeting, technology, and insurance risk management will assist us in maintaining a fiscally strong balance sheet and meet future audit requirements.

The Village Fire Department has hired Mr. David Foster as our new Fire Chief. Chief Foster began his over 30 year career in fire and emergency management in 1979 as a firefighter in the US Air Force, where he was awarded an Air Force commendation medal. Over the years he has worked in small and large Fire Departments; his last position being a seven year stint as Fire Chief/Director of DeKalb County Fire and Rescue, in Georgia. There Chief Foster directed and provided leadership for Metro Atlanta Fire Rescue Department with 26 stations.

I encourage everyone to take the time to meet Donna and Chief Foster. We are very fortunate to have them.

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. Several businesses have moved into our City and are taking advantage of this unique opportunity.

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

ER 24+7 ORTHO Emergency Room is now open for business. Located at 9180 Katy Freeway (between Campbell and Blalock Road), it is a free standing emergency room equipped to handle all emergency conditions for adults and children. It is staffed with board certified physicians, registered nurses, radiology technicians and other experienced professionals to serve our community.

The Burger Shack Grill has opened its doors for business and is located in front of Home Depot.

Residential Development

- a. Creekside Villas of Memorial (65 lots) subdivision continue their home build outs. Creekside currently has 47 families in residence with several additional home starts scheduled to begin before year's end.
- b. Windsor Court subdivision's 35 home sites have all been completed by Weekley Homes.
- c. Creekside and Windsor Court homes have combined to effectively create a 180% increase over the lost ad valorem revenue of the 57 homes that were condemned by TXDOT during the I-10 widening.
- d. Several other new homes are also under construction throughout the City.

Greenspace (behind the sound walls) Update

The Greenspace Committee continues to work on how to best use the areas and to determine what types of amenities should be provided.



City Park Update

The City Hall Park, funded through an agreement with TXDOT, is now complete. The South side parking area and associated drainage were the last items to be finished. It is time for everyone to come out to the park and enjoy this remarkable facility which includes a pavilion with restrooms for men, women and families, walking paths, picnic tables, ornamental steel fencing and signage. A special thanks goes to Grace Community Church, located just south of us, for their ongoing support of our City Hall Park. The Church has made a generous commitment to provide the materials and labor for the seasonal color plantings and to help maintain the landscaping within the Park.

I want to again take this opportunity to thank all of our City employees for their dedication and hard work. Your City has a strong balance sheet, no debt, a tax rate that is 23% less than the City of Houston and a superior response rate for police, fire, and ambulance services. I am truly proud to represent this wonderful City. For the Council and myself, thanks for allowing us to serve you and your family. If you would like additional information on the City, I can be reached at mayor@springvalleytx.com.

Sincerely,



T. Michael Andrews
Mayor
City of Spring Valley Village

