



# From the Desk of the Mayor

Feb. 2016

Carl A. Joiner

*City of Kemah*



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Happy New Year to everyone. We are looking forward to a successful 2016 for our City. I have now served as your Mayor for eight months and want to thank you again for this opportunity. I have enjoyed the job and there have been some exciting new developments at City Hall over the last several months.

We have hired a new City Administrator and she began her job this month. Her name is Ms. Wendy Ellis. She has already impressed many with her experience, professionalism and talent. Please read about her on page 3. Many thanks go to Mr. Ron Cox of Ron Cox Consulting that has served as our interim Administrator for several months. He did an excellent job guiding our City through this transition.

We also hired a Community Services Director in November. Mr. Nick Haby has already been a real asset to our City of Kemah team. Read more about Nick on page 3. Both of these individuals are committed to serving the citizens of Kemah. They are here to help YOU! As Mayor, I think we have an excellent group of employees here to serve our citizens and our City.

Since my last newsletter, there have been several important events in Kemah. The proposed Transportation Center was put to a vote in November after much dissension in our City. I am happy that the citizens got a chance to vote their opinions about this major project. The final result of that vote was 84 for and 192 votes against. I want to inform you that I have heard the majority of citizens. I placed it on the City Council agenda for a vote from the Council Members to authorize me to void the contract with HGAC and the Gulf Coast Center. This agenda item successfully passed 3 to 2, and I have since ended the City's involvement in this project.

November 11th, the Time Capsule buried at City Hall was unearthed, so it could be displayed at the 50<sup>th</sup> year celebration. It was quite a media event. Our former City Secretary Kathy Pierce was the only one who knew where it was buried. We owe a lot of thanks to her. We plan to rebury this capsule from 1976 along with one from 2016 in the near future. We will keep you posted.

Also in November, resident Cathy Bowen presented a petition to City Council. The petition seeks to change our government from a Mayor/ City Council form to a City Manager/ City Council form of government. The City Council received the petition, and it was validated by the City Secretary. We are now legally bound to put this issue up to a vote in May. We have had the current form of government for 50 years. I will be sending out information to explain this issue in the near future, so you can be an informed voter.

Speaking of our 50 years as a City, Keith Mercado was our chairman of our 50<sup>th</sup> Year Birthday Bash. He worked tirelessly to see we had a weekend to remember. The fun began December 11<sup>th</sup> with our annual tree lighting ceremony. This year the choir from Stewart Elementary and Bayside Intermediate Chamber & Symphony Orchestra entertained. I want to thank Kelley Dawson for negotiating with them to be a part of our festivities. The children added a lot to our evening.

The next day on December 12<sup>th</sup> our annual Pancakes and Pictures event for the children was in the morning and then the annual Christmas parade followed. I want to thank Parade Chairman Betty Conrad and her committee for organizing a fantastic parade! Former First Lady JoAnn Blackledge was honored as "Grand Dame" of the parade for her years of service to our community. We were fortunate that the threatening rain held off and allowed us to hold the parade as planned.

## 1976 Time Capsule



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After the parade, a program was held at the Kemah Community Center with a Documentary video produced by FireFox Productions and Chris Swanson. A power point presentation was produced by Damon Baker of Kemah Flowers that included many old photographs of our City and our citizens. Chris Doyle provided our sound system and our large TV screens that enabled us all to enjoy the show. T.J. Aulds was the master of ceremonies, and he and I recognized important people in our community. We honored the oldest citizen and oldest veteran in our City, Mr. Ralph Gordy. December 12<sup>th</sup> was proclaimed Mr. Ralph Gordy day in Kemah with a proclamation from me as Mayor of Kemah. We had a standing room only crowd and lunch was served for everyone.

Many thanks to Roselyn Pierce-Shirley for her time and talent with all the photography for our 50<sup>th</sup> and once again to our Chairman Keith Mercado. I also want to thank our executive committee and the numerous volunteers and businesses that contributed their time and talent to make this 50<sup>th</sup> Celebration a memorable one for everyone! We have published a book about our 50<sup>th</sup>. Call City Hall about purchasing one.

At our January 6<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting we honored Dr. Britani Moses, principal of Stewart Elementary, for her many professional achievements and dedication to the success of her students and the City of Kemah as a whole. I presented Dr. Moses with a proclamation and declared January 6<sup>th</sup> Britani Moses Day in Kemah. Stewart Elementary is the only school located in Kemah. We are very fortunate to have such a exemplary school!

Thanks again for this opportunity!



*Carl A. Joiner*  
Carl A. Joiner  
Mayor, City of Kemah

*Feel free to email me with questions and/or concerns:*  
[MayorJoiner@kemah-tx.com](mailto:MayorJoiner@kemah-tx.com)



Dr. Britani Moses

## NEIGHBOR NEWS

- We are sad to report that Mr. Ralph Gordy, our honored oldest citizen and veteran recognized at our 50<sup>th</sup> has passed away. We send our condolences to all the Gordy family.
- Mr. Ralph Balzano celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday in January. Congratulations to him!
- Kelley Dawson and Peyton Lumpkin are engaged. Congrats!

## SUPER NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

These volunteers have agreed to be a voice for your neighborhoods and City Hall. Just recently a citizen in Bayview Acres expressed concern about the loud truck braking on Hwy 146.

Volunteer Ms. DeSha Norwood brought this to my attention. I am pleased to announce that City Council has passed an ordinance in December to address this issue. Ms. Thea Lockett has relayed some concerns by Kemah Oaks citizens. One issue is a yellow flashing light for turning into their neighborhood. Our City engineer Jimmy Thompson has been working with TXDOT and I am happy to report that they have installed a yellow flashing turn light this month! Thea has also reported that Kemah Oaks residents have taken pride in some new landscaping around their entrance signs. Go by and take a look.

Please call your neighborhood volunteers with any issues you may have. Things can get done!

### OLD KEMAH

Pepper Coffey - (281) 382-1936 [pepcoffey@hotmail.com](mailto:pepcoffey@hotmail.com)  
Tomi Kendrick - (281) 334-4086 [cck5@comcast.net](mailto:cck5@comcast.net)

### BAYVIEW ACRES

DeSha Norwood - (281) 339-3352 [deshanorwood@gmail.com](mailto:deshanorwood@gmail.com)  
Doug McMurrey - (713) 253-8760 [doug@dougmcsmurrey.com](mailto:doug@dougmcsmurrey.com)

### WEST KEMAH

Sam Williams - (469) 237-6109 [samiam1220@yahoo.com](mailto:samiam1220@yahoo.com)  
Chris Doyle - (832) 425-0925 [chrisdoyle@texasteldata.com](mailto:chrisdoyle@texasteldata.com)

### KEMAH OAKS

Laura Gladney Lemon 832 738-5889 [gladneylemon@gmail.com](mailto:gladneylemon@gmail.com)  
Thea Lockett - (713) 825-5824 [theamarie222@aol.com](mailto:theamarie222@aol.com)

### KEMAH VILLAGE

Luann Lathrop - (281) 827-9607 [llathrop63@comcast.net](mailto:llathrop63@comcast.net)  
Jill Macomber - (646) 489-4367 [jillmacomber@comcast.net](mailto:jillmacomber@comcast.net)

### SOUTH KEMAH

Dan Rybicki - (281) 827-4285 [ibeapros@yahoo.com](mailto:ibeapros@yahoo.com)  
( We need another volunteer to serve this neighborhood )

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Kemah's Easter Eggstravaganza!**  
**Cien Park, Saturday, March 19th**  
**Festivities begin at 10:00am**

# From the Desk of the Mayor

## KEMAH KRONIES

The Kemah Kronies had their Christmas/Birthday luncheon on December 8<sup>th</sup> at the Sundance Grill. They had 22 members in attendance. Faye Waldron decorated the dining room and everyone enjoyed the food and friendship.

The Kronies are always looking for folks that want to enjoy the fellowship of others. They get together 3 times a month. For information, call Lee Streater at (281) 538-1048 or Barbara Drummer.

## KEMAH POLICE ACADEMY

It is time once again for the Kemah Citizens Police Academy Alumni's annual Cops & Crawfish celebration. It will be April 16<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. at the Kemah Community Center. Landry's and T-Bone Tom's will once again donate the crawfish and barbeque for this event. This is the 14<sup>th</sup> year to enjoy crawfish, potato and corn plates for \$10.00 a plate and Barbeque Beef sandwiches and cole slaw for \$5.00, and you can top it off with a sweet treat from the bake sale. A silent auction, door prizes and face painting will be included. As always, all of the proceeds will benefit the Kemah Police Department.

## Annual Tree Lighting



## CITY HALL STAFF

Wendy Ellis has joined the team at the City of Kemah as the City Administrator and Economic Development Director. She has worked in economic development and city administration for over 10 years. She holds a Master's degree from Texas Tech University and is a certified Professional and Community Economic Developer (PCED). She and her husband Daniel have been married 15 years and have a three-year-old son.



Nick Haby has joined the team at the City of Kemah as the new Community Services Director. He is responsible for Public Works, Code Enforcement, the Building Department and Permitting/ Inspections. Nick came to Kemah from the City of Friendswood, where he has served 10 years as Assistant to the City Manager and most recently Planning Manager. Nick is a member of the Texas City Management Association and the American Planning Association. Nick holds a Bachelor's degree from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Houston.



# City of Kemah 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



City of Kemah  
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