



# From the Desk of the Mayor

January 2017 Carl A. Joiner

*City of Kemah*



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Happy New Year to Everyone. As we head into a new year, I wanted to reflect on some of the highlights in our City this past year.

1. We added new members to our Team Kemah. Wendy Ellis - City Administrator, Carolyn Anderson - City Secretary, Nick Haby – Community Services Director, Margaret Vargas – Municipal Court, Oscar Carillo, Travis Vos, and Edwin May – Public Works, and Darryl Phelps, Alex Torres, and Katy Thompson, Police Department .
2. City Council adopted a 0.219214 tax rate for 2016-2017 which lowered our taxes.
3. Citywide Capital Improvements were approved with 5 set to begin construction in the first half of 2017. These projects include:
  - 1) Renovations and Additions to the Visitors Center which include new public restrooms.
  - 2) Revitalization and Beautification of the City parking lot.
  - 3) Paving of Cien Road
  - 4) Paving of Meadow Lane, including some drainage improvements
  - 5) Park improvements
4. Miss Kemah 2016, Nancy Gonzalez, was crowned Miss Texas. Miss Kemah Teen 2015, Karlie Hay, was crowned Miss Teen USA.
5. Police Chief Greg Rikard retired and Mr. Chris Reed was hired as an interim Civilian Police Administrator until the City selects a new Chief. Lieutenants Carl

Nunn and James Heard are working closely with Mr. Reed. Officer Wayne Lockett was asked to serve our City as the new Community Liaison Officer.

6. The City held its first annual Kemah Clean Up Day. Residents came by foot, car, and golf cart to discard old medicine, electronics, furniture etc. It was a huge success.
7. The Kemah Business Alliance held several events during the year. The last event was a meeting with TXDOT. Kemah Businesses were given the opportunity to ask questions and see how the Hwy 146 expansion is going to affect Kemah and their businesses. It was a well attended event.
8. The Kemah Police Department held its first Trunk or Treat event on Halloween night. This was a lot of family fun and a safe environment for our children.
9. Our holiday season included new holiday decorations around the City. Many thanks to Shawna Reid, Wendy Ellis, Jimmy Sims and their committee for all of the holiday arrangements. Our festivities began with Tree Lighting on December 9th which included Christmas songs from Strawberry Fields Daycare and Stewart Elementary. The annual Pictures and Pancakes with Santa family event was at the Community Center on December 10th with a great Christmas Parade afterwards.
10. Les Hart was appointed to to fill out the remaining KCDC term of Mark Kane who accepted a new position in China.

Trunk or Treat



Trunk or Treat



Trunk or Treat



# From the Desk of the Mayor

It has been busy and productive time for Kemah. Our water board WCID #12, the Fire Department, the Police Department, City Staff, City Council and Mayor have been working together as *Team Kemah* for the good of our City. I look forward to all the exciting projects approved for this fiscal year. These include:

- Downtown Improvements
- City Hall Expansion and Renovation
- Drainage in West Kemah
- Phase one of the Anders road widening project
- Turn lane on 518 at Kemah Village
- Park Improvements at Cien, Foster, Pocket Parks, and Kemah Nature Area (formerly known as 57 Acre Park)

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Watch for upcoming dates for Chat with the Mayor. I will be arranging get-togethers in each of our 6 distinct areas of Kemah to allow citizens the opportunity to meet and communicate with me and our City Staff.

## **KEMAH POLICE DEPARTMENT**

The police officers have begun a community outreach project they are calling Coffee with Cops. They will meet monthly at various locations around the City to allow the citizens to interact with the officers on a more casual basis. Their next event will be Friday, February 3rd from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. at Chick-Fil-A. Follow them on Facebook to get more information.

In addition, Detective Alonzo Soza is reporting that they are sponsoring a Kemah Police Go event that runs from January 1st through February 26th. It is a spin on the popular Pokemon Go game, and they feel it is a great way to promote positive interaction between the children in our community and our officers. Details are on the Kemah Police Facebook page and rule sheets and game

boards are available in the PD lobby. There will be prizes awarded.

In November of this last year, City Council approved a new position within the Police Department entitled Community Liaison Officer. The police department would like to be more involved with our residents, businesses, civic groups and other volunteers. They recognize the value of these relationships. This position was created to be the liaison of the police department to the community. Officer Wayne Lockett was selected for this role because of his already close relationship with many of these groups and individuals. You will see Officer Lockett attending community events and meetings representing the police department. If you would like Officer Lockett to attend your event, meeting or make a presentation, please contact the Kemah Police Department .

## **WELCOME CHRIS REED**

Chris Reed has been hired as our Interim Civilian Police Administrator. Chris has twenty eight years of experience in municipal government. As part of that tenure, he has served as the City Manager of Nassau Bay and League City. He also served as Assistant Police Chief for League City. He is a former paratrooper in the U.S. Army and holds a Master of Science degree from Sam Houston State University. He is a graduate of the FBI National Law Enforcement Academy and was awarded the Law Enforcement Purple Heart for being shot in the line of duty in 1993. Kemah is very lucky to have Mr. Reed on board to help us as Interim until the City hires a new Police Chief.



## Officer Wayne Lockett



## Kemah Clean Up Day



## Kemah Clean Up Day



# From the Desk of the Mayor

## KEMAH POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Les Hart the president of KCPAA has announced that a new Citizen Police Academy will begin on January 24th. They also are making plans for their Cops and Crawfish fundraising event that will be held April 22nd. Mark your calendars for this fun event that benefits our Kemah Police Department.

## KEMAH KRONIES

The Kemah Kronies celebrated December with a holiday luncheon at Sundance Grill. There were 21 members attending. The Kronies are always welcoming new members that want to enjoy the fellowship of others. They get together 3 times a month. Call Lee Streater at (281) 538-1048 for more information.

## NEIGHBOR NEWS

Ralph and Elizabeth Balzano celebrated their 45<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in December

Robin Collins won an ABC13 contest and an all expense paid trip to Nashville to the Country Music Awards!

Lee Streater recently celebrated his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Happy Birthday Lee!

Jeff and Shawna Reid recently enjoyed a fun winter vacation in Banff, Canada.

Les Hart was injured at work and is now on the mend.

## NEW NEIGHBORS

Please extend a Kemah welcome to our additional new residents for 2016. They are Melanie Betts, Kim Jupe, Thomas Ferrell, Russell Kovar, Kerry Johnston, Marty Vogt, Maurine Howard, Ramona S. Roberts, Michael Sprouse, Geraldo Vargas, David and Yvonne Bon, Patricia Williams, Joe Dominquez, and Frank Cappolla.

## TEAM KEMAH



Your Team Kemah includes the City Staff Wendy Ellis, Carolyn Anderson, Ana Davis (Arevalo), Shelly Crider, Carlene Neeley, Nick Haby, Jimmy Thompson, Melissa Chilcote, Margaret Vargas, 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 make Kemah a great place to live, work and play!

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



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

*Carl A. Joiner  
Mayor, City of Kemah*

**Reminder:  
Fireworks are illegal in Galveston County.  
That includes our City of Kemah!**

## Christmas Tree Lighting



## Pancakes and Pictures with Santa





Welcome to Kemah...



Gateway to the Bay™



Follow us on Facebook at

VisitKemahTX

kemah-tx.com 281-334-1611

## Kemah Events February—April 2017

February 18

Yachty Gras Boat Parade (7-9 pm)

March 4-5

Kemah Triathlon (Sat: 5-10 am;

Sun 4am -12 pm)

March 24-26

Kemah Crawfish Festival

(Fri 12—10 pm; Sat 11 am—10 pm;

Sun 11 am—6 pm)

March 31 - April 2 and April 7 - 9

Boardwalk Crawfish Festival

April 8

Eggs-travaganza and Bike Rodeo (9-11 am)

April 20 - 23

Elite Redfish Fishing Tournament

April 22

Cops and Crawfish (KCPAAA) (11 am—2 pm)

April 29

Blessing of the Fleet—Texas Shrimp Cookoff (8 am—8 pm)

April 30

Blessing of the Fleet Boat Parade (2 pm)



1401 Hwy 146  
Kemah, TX 77565-3002