



From the Desk of the Mayor

January 2018 Carl A. Joiner

City of Kemah



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Happy New Year to Everyone! 2018 is starting off to be a wet and icy one so far. The freezing temperatures, sleet, and ice on January 16th and our surprise snowfall on December 6th have made it a very cold winter for us all. I, for one, am really looking forward to nicer weather.

The beginning of a new year is the perfect time to reflect on the state of our City. I would like to share with you the great year we have had in the City of Kemah.

1. Staff changes to Team Kemah include Melissa Chilcote, our Municipal Court Administrator, was also named City Secretary; Lieutenant James Heard was named Assistant Chief of Police; and our Interim Chief of Police Chris Reed was named Chief of Police.
2. City Council adopted a decrease in our property tax rate for 2017-2018. The previous rate was 0.219214 and the new rate is 0.193000.
3. City wide capital improvements completed in 2017 were numerous. They include:
 - A. Renovations/additions to the Kemah Visitors Center including landscaping and new public restrooms
 - B. Revitalization, expansion, and beautification of the 6th street city parking lot
 - C. Concrete Paving of Cien Road
 - D. Concrete Paving of Meadow Lane including drainage improvements
 - E. Removal of the 6th street portable public restrooms
4. The shopping center on FM 518, The Shoppes of Kemah, is under construction and due to open in the first half of 2018.

5. City wide capital improvement projects approved for bidding the first quarter of 2018 include:
 - A. City Hall addition and renovation including a community plaza
 - B. Basketball court for Foster Park in West Kemah
 - C. Extension of Bel Road to the west of Highway 146
 - D. Left hand turn lane at Kemah Village and FM 518
6. City Council approved a planned study of the Kemah Police Department's overall staffing requirements and shift allocations to equip them to meet the current and long-term needs of our citizens and visitors.

TxDOT's Highway 146 expansion project is moving along and is set to bid July 2018. The projected start date will be late 2018 or early 2019. They estimate that completion of this project will take 2 ½ years. Once we know more updates and scheduling, we will let everyone know. The City plans to continue communicating with TxDOT quarterly to minimize the inconvenience for Kemah during this construction.

The annual Pancakes and Pictures with Santa event was held December 9th at the Community Center. The Kemah Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association cooked and served a terrific pancake breakfast for everyone and the Police Department took pictures with Santa. There was face painting and Christmas carols were sung by the Stewart Elementary choir and the Strawberry Fields Learning Center. There was a great turnout and lots of family fun with neighbors and friends.

Snow in Kemah



KCPAAA Pancake Cooks



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On January 6th, the Miss Texas USA pageant was held at the Hilton Post Oak. Our 2017 Miss Kemah, Stephanie Ludwig, represented Kemah and placed in the top 18 and in the top 4 for most photogenic. Our own Nancy Gonzalez, 2016 Miss Kemah, and the winner of the last year's 2017 Texas USA pageant was honored that evening for a tremendous year representing our state. She then handed off her crown to the 2018 Miss Texas.

Our 2017 Miss Kemah Teen, Bryn Carden, represented Kemah in the Miss Texas Teen USA pageant on July 29th, placing in the top 18 and winning most photogenic.

Congratulations to these young ladies representing Kemah and also to their Miss Kemah pageant director, Kelly Williams, for her tremendous success over the last 6 years!

January also included elections at Stewart Elementary for student Kemah Mayor and City Council positions. The winners were: Sofia Linares, student Mayor and Trinan Lewallen, Carmen Sarmiento, Landon Villarreal, Joey Patroliia and Ibrahim Assaker, student City Council Members. The winners plan to treat the Mayor to lunch at Stewart Elementary and hold a mock City Council Meeting in February in the City Council Chambers.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Watch for upcoming dates for neighborhood *Chats with the Mayor*. I will be coordinating get-togethers with the Super Neighborhood volunteers in each of our 6 distinct areas of Kemah. This is an opportunity for citizens to meet and communicate one on one with me, the staff, the police, and the fire department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS

The Kemah Police Department has been very active in our community. Their medication take back project in

October collected 68.5 pounds of old or unused medicine. The Halloween *Trunk of Treat* event was very successful with about 300 people in attendance! At Christmas, the Police Officers Association sponsored their 1st *Shop with a Cop* which helped 9 families and 17 children. The children each received \$200 to spend as they wanted and their parents received \$100 for groceries. KPOA looks forward to making this an annual event. Their recent *Coffee with Cops* was held on Saturday, January 27th at IHOP. This is an excellent opportunity to communicate with our officers and get to know them personally. Follow their Facebook page for their next coffee event.

In addition to community events, they have been focusing on extra patrols in our neighborhoods and new businesses and doing a survey of street lights for the City. This survey will determine where our burned out lights are located so they can be scheduled for repair.

KEMAH CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

KCPAAA hosted their annual Christmas Party honoring our the Police Department on the yacht *Boardwalk FantaSea* on December 11th. This event is free to all the members of the Police Department and their spouses. It is a fun event with music, dancing and a great meal. It is also a great way for KCPAAA members who attend to get to know the officers who serve our City.

The 16th annual *Cops and Crawfish* fundraising event will be held March 10th from 11:00 to 2:00 at the Kemah Community Center. There will be \$12.00 plates of crawfish and \$5.00 BBQ Sandwiches as well as a Bake Sale. There will also be a Silent Auction. All proceeds for the event go to benefit the Kemah Police Department. Come and join the fun!

Pancakes and Pictures with Santa



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KEMAH KRONIES

The Kemah Kronies is a social group for Seniors. Their meetings for coffee and donuts are the first and third Thursdays at 9:30 and they have a potluck luncheon the last Tuesday of the month.

NEIGHBOR NEWS

We are sad to report the passing of two long time Kemah residents. Rick Turley, who lived on 6th St and Barbara Walker, widow of Dr. Jack Walker, on Bayshore Dr.

Gary and Linda Day's daughter Aubrey came to Kemah to visit them for the holidays.

Shawna and Jeff Reid's daughter Kylee recently graduated from the College Station Police Academy.

LuAnn Lathrop recently celebrated a **BIG** birthday. Happy Birthday LuAnn!

NEW NEIGHBORS

Gary Brooks, Thurston Rhoads, Virginia Roberts, Austin Cornelius, Julia Paul, Gilbert Orozco, Arthur Smalley, Carla Fowler, Jon Schweinle, Justin Thomas, Kelly Kennedy, Tonda Chapman and Rosalva Rivera. Please give them a Kemah welcome!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ground breaking for the City Hall Addition and Renovations will be held soon. We hope everyone will attend this exciting event. In addition, there will be a ground breaking event for the expansion of Bel Road. This will be held with Galveston County representatives since the County is paying for a portion of this project. We will give you details on the exact dates soon.

A committee is being formed headed by Keith Mercado and JoAnn Blackledge to celebrate the time capsule burial and the community plaza project at the City Hall addition.

Everyone is invited to join the committee and help plan the fun. Their first organizational meeting will be February 3rd at Kemah Gardens. Call Keith Mercado at (713) 205-2395 for more details.

Also, February 3rd is the Krewe de Lac's *Krewes into Kemah* Mardi Gras Parade. The Parade will line up behind T-Bone Tom's at 9:30 am and then parade through the City. Everyone is invited to join the parade and the after party at T-Bone Tom's.

Yachty Gras Boat Parade will be February 3rd at 7:00 pm

Cops and Crawfish will be on March 10th from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at the Kemah Community Center.

TEAM KEMAH



Your "Team Kemah" includes the City Staff, Wendy Ellis, Brenda Miller-Ferguson, Melissa Chilcote, Nick Haby, Jimmy Thompson, Ana Arevalo, Shelly Crider, Carlene Neeley, 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 keep Kemah a great place to live, work and play!

*Feel free to email me with questions and/or concerns:
mayorjoiner@kemah-tx.com*



Thanks again for the opportunity to serve as your Mayor!

*Carl A. Joiner
Mayor, City of Kemah*

Pancakes and Pictures with Santa



KEMAH CITY HALL



1401 Hwy 146
Kemah, TX 77565-3002

4B | DISASTER RESPONSE NETWORK

Still need help?
Want to help?

The 4B Disaster Response Network (4B DRN) exists to mobilize a network of churches and volunteers to serve people affected by disaster in the 4B area (from the Beltway to the Beach and the Bay to Brazoria County).



Visit <http://4bresponse.org/> to
Request to Rebuild
Or
Volunteer to Help

Homeowners need to complete the online application ASAP, for their home assessment. Assessments need to be finalized by mid February.

Repairs to be performed from March 10th through March 24th.
No fees for labor or materials.

This is an outstanding opportunity to continue to help repair damaged homes and assist our neighbors in the bay area.



Join Thousands to Rebuild Homes March 10-24, 2018!

The 4B Disaster Response Network (4BDRN) along with Eight Days of Hope (EDOH) will be leading a major rebuilding effort in Southeast Houston in March 2018 to help the area rebuild from the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. March 10th through March 24th, 4BDRN and EDOH will bring together volunteers from across the nation to rebuild hundreds of homes. This event is expected to be the single largest volunteer rebuild effort over a 15-day period in U.S. history.