



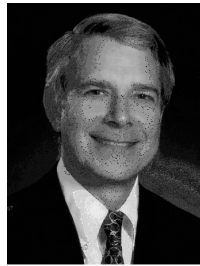
# City of Hunters Creek Neighborhood Newsletter

Fall 2006

City of Hunters Creek Village, #1 Hunters Creek Place, Hunters Creek Village, Texas 77024  
Office: 713.465.2150, Fax: 713.465.8357, [www.cityofhunterscreek.com](http://www.cityofhunterscreek.com)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Mayor's Letter
- 2 New City Employees
- 2 Our Wooded Village
- 2 Join our Council Meetings
- 2 Calling all Homeowner Association Presidents
- 3 Arbor Day 2007
- 3 Fireworks Prohibited
- 3 Property Tax Statements
- 3 Crime Prevention Tips
- 4 Contacts



**Steve Reichel**

## Mayor's Letter

The City of Hunters Creek Village will soon be starting the Memorial Drive Phase III & IV drainage project. When it is finished in late 2007, it will complete the core of our new drainage infrastructure. This was necessary to improve area drainage thus eliminating many ponding and flooding problems for residents. This major accomplishment was made possible due to two partnerships.

Harris County Flood Control contributed \$1,250,000 and the Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County contributed another \$1,750,000. I am very proud of these partnerships. It allowed us to make the repairs using annually budgeted funds without incurring any debt. Hunters Creek is the only Memorial Village without debt.

In anticipation of the completion of all work on Memorial Drive within our city's limits, I am working with an architect to design a beautiful, signature bridge over Soldiers Creek at Memorial Drive. As your mayor, I have always planned the best for our city and I am sure you will be proud of this bridge. We plan to sell the naming rights to either a corporate or individual sponsor. If you are interested or know someone who may be interested, please contact City Hall.

Another recently completed project is the installation of a natural gas generator at City Hall. It is very likely that one day a major storm will hit our village and disrupt utility services. It is necessary that our offices are able to function during such a crisis so that we can contact our citizens and coordinate a clean up action as quickly as possible. This equipment will generate enough power to run City Hall for several weeks, if necessary.

On the financial front, you will notice that Spring Branch School District is collecting city taxes for us for the first time. On the back of your tax bill you will see that the tax rate has been reduced from .25904 cents per hundred dollars in 2004, to .2550 cents in 2005 and now to .246694 cents per hundred dollars in 2006. The Mayor and Council have been able to reduce the tax rate while spending millions of dollars on drainage projects because we have been prudent with your money (**and property values are soaring**). I would expect the tax rate to continue to be lowered in future years as long as the economy remains strong.

- continued on Page 2 -

## City of Hunters Creek Village



### Mayor's Letter - from Page 1 -

As you are aware, the State of Texas is entitled to a large percentage of our revenue through various court and traffic violation fees. For example, since 2002 the State has almost doubled what the city has to pay in court and traffic fees. Part of that goes to pay for State Judges. I believe the State should take that fee out of state court fees not municipal courts. We are responsible for paying our own municipal judges. The State also takes \$30.00 out of every ticket for state traffic fines which go into the State General Fund. For each traffic ticket that is paid in Hunters Creek, \$78.00 is paid to the State. I am working with other local mayors and talking to our senators and representatives to try to convince the state to reverse this practice. It causes an undue hardship on small municipalities. The State should not be permitted to take our money and give us unfunded mandates in return. I will be working to correct this inequity for the remainder of my term.

Speaking of....next May will mark my seventh year as your mayor. It has not always been an easy job but I have really enjoyed the work and I think I have accomplished much for our City. It is time for someone else to take over my responsibilities. I work about 30 hours a month on City business. A member of council needs to work at least ten hours a month to stay informed and to attend meetings. These are important jobs, too important to neglect. I will be asking council to authorize the next mayor to be paid \$750.00 a month and council members to be paid \$350.00 a month. If council approves this motion, these changes will go into effect upon the next election for each position.

I wish you all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous new year.  
Steve Reichel

### **Welcome** New City Employees

There are two new faces at City Hall. Carmen Knezeak has joined our team as Assistant City Secretary. Carmen brings with her 15 years of municipal experience and she has three children and one grandchild. Dennis Holm has come on board as the Building Official. Dennis has 20+ years of experience as a building official. He has been married to Patricia for 30 years and has five children and seven grandchildren.

### Our Wooded Village

A constant concern and frequent topic among City Council members is the protection and replanting of trees in our village. Besides the evident beauty provided by the lush foliage we enjoy in Hunters Creek, there is the added benefit of the environmental cleaning that these trees perform. They convert and clean dirty air into healthier, purer air for breathing.

Our own Urban Forester, Brad Hendricks, is currently preparing a plan for replacing many trees which have been damaged, which are aged or which have died in the city's right-of-ways. If you are aware of a tree along a roadway that has been damaged by a car or construction vehicle, please call City Hall.

Over 160 new trees were planted along Memorial Drive after completion of Phase II of the Memorial Drive Drainage Improvement Plan. Mr. Hendricks is also working on a plan for replanting of trees along the recently completed Pifer Road. Thank you to the homeowners who have volunteered to assist in that planning process.

### You Are Invited ...

To attend regular council meetings the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at City Hall at 7:30 p.m.



### Calling all Homeowner Association Presidents



#### **Please Contact City Hall**

All presidents or representatives of homeowner associations in Hunters Creek Village are asked to contact City Hall so the association roster can be updated.

Please contact by email:

City Secretary, Debbie Loesch  
[dloesch@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:dloesch@cityofhunterscreek.org) or

Assistant City Secretary  
Carmen Knezeak  
[carmen@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:carmen@cityofhunterscreek.org) or

Call City Hall at 713.465.2150

## City of Hunters Creek Village



### Arbor Day 2007

For the past several years, the Villages have worked together to provide an Arbor Day celebration for our residents. This has been accomplished largely through the efforts of volunteer extraordinaire - Mrs. Terri Thomas. Unfortunately Mrs. Thomas has recently moved to another area of town and is no longer available to organize the once-a-year event. If anyone is interested in taking over this important role for the benefit of your community, contact Mrs. Debbie Loesch at 713.465.2150. There are many volunteers in place ready to assist you; we just need a new facilitator. If you have an interest in promoting tree preservation please consider this opportunity to get involved. For more information about National Arbor Day visit [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org)

### Fireworks Prohibited



As a reminder, the sale, storage, or use, having or manufacturing of fireworks are prohibited within the City. Any person who violates this ordinance and is found guilty can be punished by a fine or penalty up to \$2,000.00.

### Property Tax Statements

Your city property tax statement for 2006 will now be included in the tax statement you will receive from the Spring Branch ISD Tax Office. You will be able to access your statement at their web site at [www.springbranchisd.com](http://www.springbranchisd.com). Visa, Master-Card, Discover and American Express credit cards will be accepted for payments on-line.

If you have any questions regarding your tax statement you should contact SBISD Tax Office directly at 713.365.5590. The tax office is located at 8880 Westview, Houston, TX 77055.

### Crime Prevention Tips

The Memorial Villages Police Department will be glad to attend your home owners association/civic club meetings to talk about crime prevention. Contact the department at 713.365.3700.



Did you know that the Memorial Villages Police Department provides home security surveys for our citizens?

There are two types of security surveys:

- One type is for insurance premium reduction. An officer completes a state issued form which deals with the installed alarm system and inspects exterior door locks and windows. If the residence meets the state standards, the inspection notice is sent to the Texas Department of Insurance advising that a successful inspection was conducted.
- The other type of home inspection is conducted when a resident wants to improve the general security of their home. An officer meets with the resident and inspects the area that the resident has questions about and then makes any recommendations that they see to improve the security in that area. This type of inspection can deal with any security issue including alarm systems, locks, doors, windows, lighting or any other security question.

If you are interested in having a home security survey, please contact:

Steve Shandera  
Memorial Villages Police Department  
713.365.3712  
Email: [sshandera@mvpdtx.org](mailto:sshandera@mvpdtx.org)

# City of Hunters Creek Village

## IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Emergency

Emergency ..... 911  
Police ..... 713.365.3700  
Fire ..... 713.468.7941

### Utilities

Electricity ..... 713.207.2222  
Gas ..... 713.659.2111  
Water & Sewer ..... 713.465.8318  
Cable ..... 713.462.9000  
Trash Collection (Republic Waste) . 281.446.2030

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#1 Hunters Creek Place  
Hunters Creek Village, Texas 77024

### Mayor

Steve Reichel  
713.465.2150  
[steve@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:steve@cityofhunterscreek.org)



### City Council

Michael E. Cokinos, Alderman, Position #1  
713.465.2150 [mcokinos@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:mcokinos@cityofhunterscreek.org)

Peggy Burck, Alderman, Position #2, Mayor Pro-Tem  
713.465.2150 [peggysburck@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:peggysburck@cityofhunterscreek.org)

Art Casper, Alderman, Position #3  
713.465.2150 [acasper@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:acasper@cityofhunterscreek.org)

Roger Stark, Alderman, Position #4  
713.465.2150 [rstark@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:rstark@cityofhunterscreek.org)

George A. Shannon, Alderman, Position #5  
713.465.2150 [gshannon@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:gshannon@cityofhunterscreek.org)

### City Secretary

Deborah Loesch  
713.465.2150  
[citysecretary@cityofhunterscreek.org](mailto:citysecretary@cityofhunterscreek.org)