



Mayor Mark McGrath

**COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

By *Mark McGrath*

**BUDGET**

On September 29, Council adopted the budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2004. The budget adoption was the culmination of a process that started with a series of workshops beginning in June and concluding with a public hearing on September 22.

City-wide, property values for tax appraisal purposes have risen less than 2% from the previous year. This was due in part to increasing the exemption for taxpayers over 65 or disabled from \$15,000 to \$30,000. Since property taxes are the largest component of the City's revenue base, absent an adjustment to the tax rate, property tax revenue would increase at a similar pace. Sales tax is projected to generate the amount of revenue as in the previous fiscal year.

On the expense side, raises for City employees were limited to 2% in contrast to the 3% annual raises in preceding years. One public works position was eliminated. The actuarially determined City contribution to the employee's retirement plan increased 10% from the previous year.

Also in this year's budget is the purchase of 2 police cars for \$50,000 and approximately \$50,000 for repairs to equipment at the City's wastewater treatment and water production facilities. Neither of these items was in last year's budget.

Also at the September 29th meeting, Council adopted a property tax rate of \$0.76 per \$100 of assessed valuation for the next fiscal year. This rate is 3 cents more than the previous year and will cost the average homeowner about \$52 more per year in property taxes. Finally, Council voted to increase water and sewer rates by 7% effective with the October billing.

This was a tough budget. Throughout the process, which included meetings with all City departments heads, Council adopted a philosophy not to cut City services or defer maintenance to City facilities. The increase in the tax rate and the water and sewer rates is consistent with this philosophy.

We look forward to the arrival of several commercial projects over the next year, such as Meadows Seniors Village, CVS Pharmacy and the Oasis redevelopment to help ease the load on residential taxpayers in future years.

**HOOKS AND SLICES AND SAND TRAPS, OH MY!**

On September 27th, the City of Meadows Place hosted its 12th annual golf tournament at Sienna Plantation Gold Club in Missouri City. The day was warm and sunny, and so were the golfers. The event was put together by Terry Modeland and Monya Keenen of our Parks and Recreation Department. They worked hard to make sure everybody had a good time.

Public Works Director Dan McGraw and Code Enforcement Officer Tracy Spiller along with Ray Modeland and Deborah McGraw were there as well lending a helping hand.

City Council was represented by Mayor Mark McGrath and Councilman Terry Henley. The Mayor said he was proof that you do not have to be a good golfer to enjoy the tournament.

The fun did not end with the golf. After eighteen holes, the tournament was followed by a dinner, where the awards (and bragging rights for next year) were handed out. New this year was a silent auction which was a huge success. *Continued on page 3.....*



1st Place Winners of this year's tournament

Street Light Repair  
713-207-2222 or [www.centerpoint.com](http://www.centerpoint.com)

**CITY CALENDAR**

**October 26, 2004**

City Council Meeting  
7:30 p.m.

**CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE**

One Troyan Drive • Meadows Place, TX 77477 • (281) 983-2950 • Fax (281) 983-2940

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- CITY SECRETARY ..... **Elaine Herff**

## Did You Know.....

**Did You Know ...** that most of Meadows Place is now a Drug Free Zone? Well it is, and that is a great tool for our Police Department to use when dealing with folks who bring illegal drugs within a thousand feet of our schools and parks. What makes it really neat is how it all came to be. One of our patrol officers, Corporal Nix – you know, the motorcycle guy - made it known to a Council Member that MP didn't have a Drug Free Zone established and that it should. This information was brought to the attention of the Mayor. Within two days there was an action plan on the table. Three weeks later all the work had been done, the paperwork complete, the maps drawn and a resolution was before Council. That ladies and gentlemen is how local government is supposed to work. Congratulations to Corporal Nix, Chief Pickett, Mayor McGrath and everyone else that was involved for their quick response and for giving the PD another tool to help keep the bad guys away from Meadows Place.

**Did You Know ...** that Meadows Place is seeing the effects of the long, hot and DRY summer. According to Public Works Director Dan McGraw, we pumped over 750,000 gallons of water *a day* from our wells last month. Looks like that third well was a really good idea! Especially with all the new growth going on and the demand that we will see in the future. Dan says we are in great shape. Speaking of great, the work our public works crew has been doing along Airport has been great. Hopefully by the time you read this they will be done with the electrical and irrigation systems and the lights and gardening will be complete. Thanks guys.

Oh, back to the Police Dept. for a minute. **Did You Know ...** That you can still call the Meadow PD # (281-983-2900) after hours? We use the Ft. Bend Sheriff's Office to dispatch our officers and patrolmen then. According to Capt. Ashton, there have been some training issues between the two departments that are getting worked out so all you have to do is to tell them you want to speak to someone on the PD and they will send them out ASAP. Do not be afraid to call, for as they love to say, "We'd rather come out to nothing than to come out to something". The best way to make sure that is the case is to keep an eye out for your neighbor and call the PD if you think something is the LEAST bit suspicious or out of the norm .

**Did You Know ...** That Meadows Place kids are playing a big role on the Dulles HS football team? Trevor Dippon leads the way on the offensive side and David Soto has been a force on defense. Tough break for David Pangenabean who was a mainstay on the offensive line 'til he got hurt. Get well and Go Vikings! Meadows Place kids have an impact and play leading roles other places as well. MP resident Francis "Franny" Tan is a cheerleader at St. Agnes and is very involved in student activities there. Give me an M. Give me an E.....give some news that we can use in Did You Know!

Let's all be on the lookout for those cute little ghosts and goblins that will be walking our streets this Halloween. There will be a high number around the school and pool areas, so please be careful.

Send YOUR news, ideas or comments about our neighborhood to [alderman1@cityofmeadowsplace.org](mailto:alderman1@cityofmeadowsplace.org)

### CLASSIFIED & ADVERTISING

*Anyone wishing to place an ad in the newsletter can contact City Hall for information. All ads are due by the last working day of each month. We wish to thank the advertisers who have helped to make this newsletter possible. The appearance of paid advertising is not an endorsement by the City. However, if you choose to use these advertisers, please let them know that you saw their ad in our newsletter.*

Pet sitting. References available. Grant or Richard (281) 933-3499

William Sutherland, handyman – Appliance repairs, Electrical, Plumbing, Interior-Exterior carpentry work, Painting. Pager, 713-833-9847. Cell, 713-384-2817.

Party Rentals: Margarita and frozen drink machines. Beverage mixes with multiple flavors available. Daily rental: \$75.00 per machine. Al Scheaffer, Resident 281-495-4856.

Professional musician offers private violin and piano lessons for children. Credentials include ten years as violinist in major orchestra and Master's degree

from top music university in former Soviet Union. E-mail [gcerrone@ev1.net](mailto:gcerrone@ev1.net). Phone 281-879-1641.

Cakes for all occasions, catering, house sitting and house cleaning. References available. 832-549-9892.

Handyman – House repairs. Carpentry specialty. Custom cabinets, countertops, etc. 832-443-5831 or 281-568-5748.

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# HOME AND GARDEN CLUB

At the October 12th meeting, the main business discussion covered the Club's 29th Fall Craft Show. This year the show will be held Saturday, November 13th, 9 am to 5 pm at its NEW LOCATION, St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, 12627 W. Bellfort, between Dairy Ashford and Eldridge Roads. There will be over 40 talented vendors from the Houston area presenting beautiful hand crafted items for sale. The show will also feature the Club's annual bake sale and raffle.

This is the major fund raiser for the Club and the proceeds from the show are used toward the many projects Garden Club supports within Meadows Place, including Scholarship Fund, landscaping and maintenance around the Community Center and several smaller contributions that are made when the need arises. We would like to encourage all our city's residents to come out to visit and shop this event, as we need your support to make this project a huge success.

As a reminder, on the weekend of November 6th & 7th, Boy Scout Troop #115 will be delivering flyers to everyone with all the information on the show. So look for the bright gold flier in your door, mark you calendar, and come say "Hi" to us on Saturday, November 13th.

- Section I: Steve & Belinda Morgan  
11519 Scottsdale
- Section II: Brad & Candy Gibson  
11918 Meadowdale
- Section III: Doug & Sharon Rapp  
12022 Alston
- Section IVS: Mr. & Mrs. Keith Radcliffe  
12126 Valencia
- Section IVN: Harold & Patricia Byers  
11911 Blair Meadow
- Meadowglen III: P.L. & Alice Rajan  
12215 Meadow Park Court

Yard of the Month judging will resume in spring. Greta Nimbalker, a craft designer from Michael's will help members create holiday decorations at the next club meeting on November 9th at the Community Center.

## GARAGE SALE DATES

Garage sales are limited to the last weekend of odd numbered months (January, March, May, etc.) Weekends are defined as Friday and Saturday. Residents may have up to 2 garage sales per year on the designated weekends. A garage sale permit is required. Please refer to the dates shown below for garage sale dates.

- November 26 & 27, 2004
- January 28 & 29, 2005
- March 25 & 26, 2005
- May 27 & 28, 2005
- July 29 & 30, 2005
- September 23 & 24, 2005
- November 25 & 26, 2005

## VEHICLE STICKERS

Meadows Place vehicle stickers are available at City Hall for your vehicles at the cost of \$1.00 each. While the stickers are optional, they do identify your vehicle as belonging in Meadows Place and are an aid to the Police Department. Be sure to bring your vehicle identification number and license plate number when applying for a sticker.

Continued from page 1...The most popular part of the evening was the many door prizes that were given out to all the golfers. Proceeds from the tournament benefit the parks in the City of Meadows Place. We appreciate and thank all who attended and supported this fundraiser event.

### The winners were...

- 1st Place Team** - JB Garcia, Joe Appel,  
Manny Contereas, Dan O'Keefe
- Putting contest** - George Smith
- Longest drive** - Bob Madura
- Closest to the pin** - George Smith and David Garrett

Thanks to all those who participated in this year's event. It was a great success, and we look forward to next year. Thanks to the following sponsors for their contributions to the tournament:

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- Republic Waste
- Southwest Surveying Company

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### MEADOWS COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

#### PAINT APPROVAL FORMS

- MCIA Board member must approve all exterior painting.
- Brick on homes may not be painted
- Exterior portions of fences may not be stained or painted
- Approval forms are always necessary, even if repainting the existing color
- Painting prior to approval may result in your having to repaint

Members:

Mike Schofield 281-575-7471  
 Cathy Jacobson 281-933-8333  
 Steve Court 281-498-4334  
 Diann Hamilton 281-495-4038  
 Sherry Carlson 281-879-1359

#### MCIA BOARD MEETINGS

- First Thursday of each month.
- Beginning at 7:30 pm at City Hall
- Visit our website

<http://www.cityofmeadowsplace.org/mcia.html>

#### CITY ORDINANCE/

#### CODE ENFORCEMENT *By Tracey Spiller*

Although we as Texans don't think about freezing temperatures until they are upon us, now is the time to have your furnaces serviced. Just a reminder, be sure you are using a licensed air conditioning and heating contractor. Failure to use a licensed contractor can not only put you at risk for poor performance from the unit but also, if the unit is wired incorrectly, it can be dangerous. In order to identify licensed contractors the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation offers these tips.....State-issued license numbers, which begin with TACL, must be on all printed advertisements, company vehicles, business cards, work proposals, and invoices. If no license number is evident, the contractor is most likely not licensed. Consumers can also check the status of a license or licensed contractor's enforcement history at the TDLR website ([www.license.state.tx.us](http://www.license.state.tx.us)) or through TDLR's customer service lines at 1-800-803-9202 or 1-512-436-6599.

## PARKS AND RECREATION BULLETIN

### SENIOR ACTIVITIES

#### FIELD TRIPS, CLASSES, WEEKLY EXERCISE AND MORE...

The City of Meadows Place Parks and Recreation Department has joined with City of Sugar Land Parks Department to offer recreation for all seniors who live in Meadows Place. Our Parks Department has a list of activities for seniors to enjoy. If you are interested in these programs, please contact us at 281-983-2935. If we are away, please leave a detailed message so that the person in charge of these programs can contact you.

#### **PLEASE CONTACT THE PARKS DEPARTMENT IF YOU ARE A SENIOR LIVING IN MEADOWS PLACE AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES OFFERED HERE IN OUR COMMUNITY.**

We would like a list of all interested seniors and we will keep our seniors informed of activities offered in the Fort Bend area, as well as try to form our own seniors group. We have a monthly updated list of all these activities at City Hall. Please contact the Parks Department to receive a copy of this activity guide.

### RECYCLING NEWS FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT

Recycling containers have been placed in public areas throughout the city. Please notice the green top recycling containers and place your cans and plastic bottles there and not in the regular trash cans. You can find these new containers at the Pool/Community Center and at the Community Center Annex (Kirkwood Building). Let's all join together and be "recycling conscious," - save our landfills.

### KARATE

Fall classes on going until December 2nd  
Winter classes January 13 – March 31  
No classes Spring Break week  
6:30 – 7:30 pm (ages 5-12)  
7:30 – 8:30 pm (teen/adult)  
\$40.00 (11 weeks)

### TENNIS CLASSES

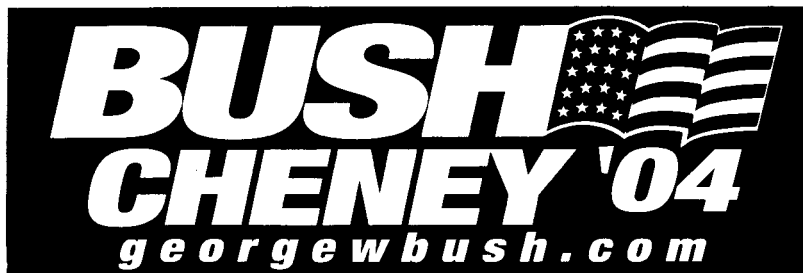
<b>Monday</b>	<b>6:00-7:15 pm</b>	Junior Beginner/Advanced Beginner
<b>Monday</b>	<b>7:15-8:30 pm</b>	Adult Beginner/Advanced Beginner
<b>Friday</b>	<b>5:30-6:45 pm</b>	Junior beginner/Advanced Beginner
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6:45-8:00 pm</b>	Junior Beginner/Advanced Beginner
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>8:00-9:15 am</b>	Adult Beginner/Advanced Beginner
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>-9:15-10:30 am</b>	Junior Beginner/Advanced Beginner

Fees (4 week series): \$43 for once per week, \$80 for twice per week

### SPECIAL ADULT CLINICS: \$15 EACH CLINIC

<b>Sat., Oct. 16</b>	<b>5:30-7:00pm</b>	Groundstrokes, improving your Forehand and Backhand
<b>Sun., Oct. 17</b>	<b>5:30-7:00pm</b>	Serve & Return of Serve
<b>Sat., Oct. 23</b>	<b>5:30-7:00pm</b>	Serve & Return of Serve
<b>Sun., Oct. 24</b>	<b>5:30-7:00pm</b>	Groundstrokes, improving your Forehand and Backhand
<b>Sat., Nov. 6</b>	<b>5:30-7:00pm</b>	Groundstrokes, improving your Forehand and Backhand
<b>Sun., Nov. 7</b>	<b>5:30-7:00pm</b>	Serve & Return of Serve

VOTE



VOTE

## Vote early at Meadows Place City Hall

Monday-Friday	Oct. 18-22	10:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.
Saturday	Oct. 23	7:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.
Sunday	Oct. 24	12:00 P.M.- 5:00 P.M.
Monday-Friday	Oct. 25-29	7:00 A.M.- 7:00 P.M.

## ELECTION DAY

Tuesday	Nov. 2	7:00A.M.-7:00 P.M.
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For a yard sign or to volunteer call 281-325-0115.

Pd. for by Precinct Chair Theresa Bathe 11726 Brighton Meadows Place, TX 77477

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Find out this information and more by visiting [Meadows Place Home . com](http://MeadowsPlaceHome.com)

## Free Fun For the Family !

### Houston Maritime Museum

Visit the **Houston Maritime Museum** now open at 2204 Dorrington near Holcombe and South Main. Exhibits include more than 50 historic ship models, maps, prints and historical relics. Additional features include a gift shop, lecture hall, library and "The Ship Yard" where a museum representative creates and restores historical model ships. Lectures can be scheduled for all age groups. **Admission is free.** Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F and by appointment. Call 713-666-1910.



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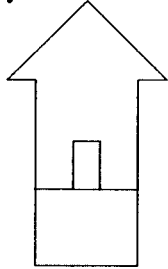
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*See Insert for Halloween Happenings*

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