Place for Life

Meadows PLACE

COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR By Charles Jessup



2010 - The Year in Review

It you read this column regularly, you know we had an event filled year. We saw several unexpected challenges, an increasing strain on City staff and resources, some tough decisions made but we also witnessed the strengthening of our 'Can Do' attitude by Citizens, Council and Staff. There were some major issues dealt with and a great deal

got accomplished - frugally. As I was reflecting back at what I thought were our major accomplishments, I began to wonder what Staff and Council thought were the most important or impactful accomplishments of 2010. So, I put the question to both Council and the Department Heads as to what they thought were the most significant issues we dealt with last year and, what they hoped we would accomplish in 2011. I was both pleased and surprised by some of the responses, but knew right away I needed to share them with you. First let's take a look at what they felt were the major accomplishments of 2010. In no particular order they were: Establishing a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for the City. This was on the top of several lists. Starting the Engineering for Airport Reconstruction was listed as was balancing the budget while funding raises for the staff. (We had none last year). Developing a Promotion Process and implementing the first ever Assessment Center for the PD were on there too. McDonald Park improvements ranked high as was completing a Strategic Plan for the City. Along those lines were the completion of an Internal Communications Plan and the development of several types of External Marketing Materials. (Thanks to the EDC) Changing the EDC from a Type A to a Type B was at the top of one persons list while another had beginning the Codification of our City Ordinances as another. Restructuring and streamlining of our Financial Reporting was listed as was the revamping of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Whew.... and this is not everything we've done. Beside making it through a tough budget year in great shape, a couple of my personal favorites include our strong voter turnout and census response, developing a closer working relationship with Ft. Bend Animal Control and the huge savings we are beginning to realize by applying for an Energy Conservation Grant for City Hall which allowed us to modernize our air handling system. I could go on and on, but last year is over so let's take a look at what they want for us for next year.

(continued on page 3)

www.cityofmeadowsplace.org



City of Meadows Place Paints the Town Behr!

In an effort to protect and increase our residential property values and find a way to simplify the paint color selection for all of us, the City of Meadows Place has come to an agreement to use the color combinations listed in the large Behr Exterior Color Card as the standard for preapproved colors for exterior painting within the City. When we called Behr to request additional copies of their color card, they were honored and very excited. They have decided to offer all residents of Meadows Place an opportunity to enter a contest for an Exterior Paint Makeover!! Paint AND Labor!! In addition, selected Runners-up will receive Free Paint! Complete details and entry forms will be in the February Newsletter. This will also be on the agenda as a discussion item at the City Council meeting on Jan. 25th. Hope to see you there.





CITY CALENDAR

January 25 Regular City Council Meeting

City Hall 7:30PM

Feb. 11 & 12 Garage Sale Weekend

Did You Know?...

Did You Know... long time resident and former Council Member 'Leen' Zellers has passed on? Leen was always a great spokesperson for the City, served for years on the Planning & Zoning Committee (P&Z) and then served several years on Council, where she always pushed us to think long term and not be afraid to work hard for what we wanted. Her services were held in a small historical church in Bold Spring, Texas. It was there because her Great-Grandfather had donated the land for a church and cemetery. This was land that he had obtained for his service to the country in the Spanish American War. Her family was pleased to see the support from the City as her services were attended by Mayor Pro-Tem Terry Henley and Mayors Mark McGrath and Charles Jessup. A big believer in, and promoter of the City of Meadows Place, Leen will be missed.

Baker wanted us to know that Sandwich King, Walgreens, Great W'kana, CVS, and Pro Clips donated merchandise and/or gift certificates to the gift basket for the Association of Retarded Citizens annual auction? Officer Davis coordinated the effort, collected the donations, and put together a beautiful basket. She has been doing this on behalf of Meadows Place PD since 2007. Sheriff Milton Wright calls the Chief every year, as he does other police agencies within Ft. Bend County, to solicit our participation. Thanks Chief for letting us know and a special Thanks to Officer Kelly Davis for spearheading this wonderful program.

Did You Know... the in-house portion of our annual City Audit was done in record time this year thanks to the professionalism and preparatory efforts of Melody Vaal and Laura Shirley? The amount of time spent on-sight is reflected in what we are charged so this is significant and will be reflected in cost savings to the City. Thanks of course must include Elaine Herff and the rest of the staff for all their instant support during the audit. GREAT job everyone!

Parks Assistant Kristina Hickle is working toward her degree and hopes to get accepted into nursing school next year? If her hard work and dedication throughout her tenure with the City is any indication, they should

be knocking at her door to sign her up. She has even taken night classes to work around her part time schedule here. Just another example of a young person from Meadows Place doing the extra things it takes to get extraordinary results – and to help keep Meadows Place, *Your Place For Life*. Thanks Kristina – and good luck.

Did You Know... Lee Noak called to say Thank You for letting him know that we can recycle our used household batteries at Radio Shack? Lee said he would start taking them there but also wanted us to know that Home Depot and Lowe's will take those curly cff bulbs. They contain high levels of mercury and should not be thrown in the trash. Now I know what to do with them. Thanks for the tip Lee!

Know... that Did You Connie Johnson was visiting with the Mayor at Christmas Memories and listening to Mrs. Court's fabulous Meadows Elementary Choir? She summed up the feelings of many of us when she said "Once again our family had a great time and experienced the pride of living in such a wonderful city with a small town feel". Isn't that a fantastic feeling! But, while soaking in the joyful sounds, she also asked the Mayor if he knew there were presently two exchange students from China living with two different Meadows Place families and attending Dulles High School? (No, I did not) Hopefully some of you got a chance to meet them at Christmas Memories in the Park. She then extended warm holiday wishes to everyone from the Johnson Hickox family. Thank you Connie we all want to extend a big Meadows Place WELCOME to our visiting students Christine and Joyce!

Did You Know... that the City needs your help keeping the leaves out of our storm drains? This means keeping our gutters leaf free so they don't wash down the drain. I know it is a pain to sweep the street but more and more of us are doing so. It not only helps with our Storm Water Plan it helps the City look better overall. Thanks everyone who has been pitching in to help.

Remember, **Did You Know** is for YOU? Let us know what is going on with your family. Drop a note by City Hall or email: mayor@cityofmeadowsplace.org Thank You

Did You Know...

we expect final approval from TCEQ for the lake construction later this month. This means construction will probably start sometime in February. When it starts, we will be blocking off the back two thirds of the park and closing the walking track for safety. Yes, it is going to be an inconvenience for a little while, but boy is it going to be worth it!

(continued from page 1)

2011 - A View of the Future

The following is just a sampling of a few of the projects, many of them already in the works, that your Council and City Staff hope to see through to completion in 2011. Secure new Family Friendly businesses for Meadows Place is on the list. Start and complete our new Lake project, and name it by having a citywide 'Name that Lake' contest, was up there too. Begin the reconstruction of West Airport is atop a couple of lists as is the desire to see the passage of an ordinance clarifying and simplifying the housing colors process. National marketing projects was listed by one Council member as was getting Meadows Place in the new Greater Houston Partnership business development plan. Finding funds for a new Laser Shot safety training program and updating the Police Car Computers to ensure communications continuity between Meadows Place PD and the County Emergency System was there too. Several want to work with the owners of Heritage Mall so we can get the drive opened up again. Complete the codification process, working with our new 'Type B' EDC on long range planning, continued monthly budget reviews, "Table Top" sessions to review and practice our Disaster Recovery and COOP plans and, well, you get the picture. Though we are maintaining our sleepy small town image and feel, this is a City on the move. We are so blessed to have such a dedicated, hard working group of people that strive for excellence as they perform their daily duties while keeping their eyes on the future to ensure Meadows Place is, and will always be... Your Place for Life. Happy New Year everyone. May it be joyous and prosperous for all of us.



Our Business Neighbors are a very important part of the City. This column is dedicated to those businesses.

If you want to start the New Year with a New look for your home -check out

Prestige Furniture Gallery

They can help you with put together a new Living Room, Dining Room or Bedroom set from a variety of styles and manufacturers.

Meadows Place has some really great stores. Be sure to shop here in town whenever you can. Our businesses need, and deserve, our support.



Please support Meadows Place businesses whenever you can.

Thank You



Each year around the holidays we get a number of questions relating to Registered Sex Offenders in our City. The Meadows Place Police Department and our City take a very proactive approach to the restrictions and regulations regarding Registered Sex Offenders. In 2006 the City Council passed an ordinance increasing the distance of safe zones in our city. Our ordinance sets a residential prohibition restriction which does not allow a Registered Sex Offender to establish a residence within 2,000 feet of any premise where children commonly gather. This includes schools, playgrounds, day care facilities, public or private youth centers, public swimming pools or video arcades. Our ordinance increases that zone from the state mandate of 1,000 feet to 2,000 feet. The ordinance also prohibits landlords from renting property to Registered Sex Offenders. There are some exceptions to the ordinance if the Registered Sex Offender was previously living in the residence prior to the establishment of the ordinance.

The Police Department regularly monitors Registered Sex Offenders in our City. We strive to make sure they maintain their court ordered requirements, such as registration and reporting, which includes any job changes, vehicle changes, and email addresses. During the holidays, officers monitor the residences and make contact with each Registered Sex Offender, to make sure they are in compliance. We also monitor the state website to make sure information is correct and up-to-date. We watch for Registered Sex Offenders who have moved into our city yet attempt to continue to report with other agencies. Instances like this have been discovered in the past, and we have enforced the ordinance by requiring the offender to immediately comply with our ordinance.

We encourage our citizens to monitor the Texas D.P.S. Sex Offender Website. If you enter a search for our zip code of 77477, you will see that a total of twenty-five Registered Sex Offenders live in this zip code. Only two of the twenty-five Registered Sex Offenders actually live in the City of Meadows Place. Both of the individuals living in Meadows Place fall under the exemption set by the ordinance. The majority of the Registered Sex Offenders that are listed reside within the jurisdictions of the City of Houston and the City of Stafford.

If you have any information regarding any Registered Sex Offender please contact the Police Department. We are working together with you to keep our City safe for our children and residents.

Texas Dept. of Public Safety Website Address: https://records.txdps.state.tx.us/DPS_WEB/SorNew/index.aspx

Code Enforcement



By Kathi Sutton

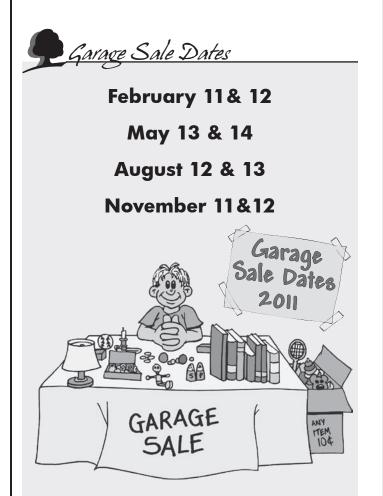
Fences

Wood fences are especially vulnerable to the elements of nature. Rot is the biggest enemy of a wooden fence, but other factors can damage a fence too. Changes of season, and groundwater, can both play

havoc on fences and gates. Soft wet soil and alternating drought conditions allow fence posts to loosen up and eventually sag or fall over.

The components that make up a fence include vertical posts, rails and the screening material of pickets / fence boards.

If your yard is fenced, then it needs to be maintained in a manner that keeps the fence structurally sound. Check fences by wiggling the posts to see if there is any movement – if there is, plan on removing soil around the base of the posts and pouring additional concrete to reinforce them. This is also a great time to check the condition of the fence boards / supports, and the functional operation of your gates.



Responsible Pet Ownership

This article is the third in a series that has been included in our monthly newsletters.

Enforcement

The City of Meadows Place has an Interlocal Agreement with Fort Bend County Animal Services. FBCAS has enforcement authority of our Animal Control Ordinance. They will respond to our city for calls for service, such as;

- 1. Dogs "Running at Large". Despite a common misconception, dogs do not need to be confined in order for FBCAS to respond. HOWEVER: Be mindful that the jurisdictional territory for FBCAS is huge, and it is very possible that the dog that you are reporting will not stay in the same location until an Animal Services Officer arrives. If you can contain the pet until an Officer arrives then that would be more practical, but be sure to leave written permission for the Officer to enter your premises and remove the animal from your property.
- 2. Trapped animals. FBCAS lends humane traps for nuisance animals 1 week at a time, deposit required. Residents can call to inquire upon availability of traps, and must pick up & return the traps to Animal Services. Once an animal is trapped, FBCAS will pick up the trapped animal during normal business hours (Monday Friday 8am-5pm excluding holidays).
- 3. Bite Investigations. Animal bites are serious, and should always be investigated by the local Rabies Control Authority.
- 4. Wild Animals. Animals at a high risk for the rabies virus (raccoons, bats, skunks, fox) that exhibit abnormal behavior or that appear sick should be reported immediately. You cannot tell by looking at an animal if it has rabies, only a lab can determine that. ANYTIME a bat is located indoors it should be reported.
- 5. Snakes. Only snakes that are inside of a residence will be responded to.
- 6. Cruelty to animals. FBCAS will investigate reports of cruelly treated animals.

For more information on Rabies, or other zoonotic diseases, visit: www.dshs.state.tx.us/idcu/disease/rabies.

Fort Bend County Animal Services can be reached at 281-342-1512, or visit their webpage at: www.co.fort-bend.tx.us



The Meadows Place Police Department would like to thank the following contributors for their generous donation to the Association of Retarded Citizens (A.R.C.) fund raiser. The following are the gracious contributors to be recognized:

- Sandwich King
- Walgreens
- Great W'kana
- CVS
- Pro Clips

Thank you for your participation, we look forward to working with each of you in next year's event.

- Ofc. K. Davis



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Public Works



By Dan McGraw

Smoke Testing of the City Sewer System

In the summer of 1999 Meadows Place completely rehabilitated our entire sewer collection system because excess water was infiltrating through cracks in the pipes when

it would rain. The infiltrated water would then to flow to the city Waste Water treatment Plant (WWTP). The high flows, which interfere with the treatment of the sewage, and would sometimes, put the city in violation with our permit from Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). Prior to 1999 one inch of rain would equal approximately 640,000 gallons of rain water through our sewer system. If we had a four inch rain we would see approximately 2.5 million gallons of rain water through the plant. When a Waste Water Plant receives high flows such as these it becomes impossible for the WWTP to effectively treat the sewage.

During the study of the sewer collection system the engineers performed a Smoke Test to determine how many cracked pipes we had and for leak testing the manholes. During the smoke testing we had found that some residents have yard drains and or gutter drains connected to the city sewer system when it should have been run to the STORM sewer system via the street gutter. Since the rehabilitation we have reduced the infiltration by 70 to 80%. We believe we still have infiltrated water coming from yard drains and gutter connections. In order to correct this, the City will be Smoke Testing in the summer (2011) to locate these illegal connections.

If you are not sure if you have an illegal connection call city hall and request an inspection. All yard drains need to be drained to the street. Gutters can be tied into a yard drains so it will flow to the street gutter and the street gutter will convey the water to the storm drain pipe and go directly to the drainage ditch and then to the waters of the state and not to the WWTP for treatment.

We realize that most folks don't know this is an illegal connection or how much it adversely affects our WWTP, which is why we are bringing this to your attention. You will be seeing more on Smoke Testing in the future and a final notice will be posted in the newsletter and a notice will be put on each door three days before we start. If you have any questions please call Dan McGraw or City Hall at 281/983/2950.



The 21st annual Meadows Place Christmas Memories in the Park took place on Friday, December 10th. This yearly event is a favorite tradition among residents and visitors!

Activities included hayrides, petting zoo, giant snow hill for sliding, and camp fire area! The Police Department also debuted their new Mobile Command Center! Live music from The Emotions, as well as special performances from Meadows Elementary Choir and members of the Queen Theatre Singers turned Mark McGrath Park into a winter wonderland.

The highlight of the evening is always the arrival of Santa. This year, Mr. & Mrs. Claus came in style in a shiny red fire truck called "The Big Red", courtesy of Tim Evanich. They were escorted in with the Police Department's brand new Chevy Tahoe patrol vehicle! Once he arrived, the children were treated to visits with Santa and plenty of festive spirits as he handed stockings filled with Christmas goodies to all of the good boys and girls.

Steve Bezner, along with Cub Scout Pack 301, offered fire pits providing warmth and sold s'more kits for their fundraiser as well. Everyone was excited to see the fire pits back this year! Residents enjoyed sitting on bales of hay listening to The Emotions perform, and eating delicious warm food and drinks provided by Meadows Marlins Swim Team and Meadows Place Baseball. Parks and Recreation would like to thank Brookside equipment for the use of their tractor, two trailers, and two gators. A big thank you also goes out to HDR Claunch & Miller Engineering Consultants for their generous contribution towards providing the snow for Christmas Memories.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped make this a great 21st Anniversary of Christmas Memories in the Park! If you have any suggestions on how to make next year's celebration even better, please call Parks and Recreation at 281-983-2935 or e-mail Monya@cityofmeadowsplace.org_



Santa listened to all of the children's Christmas wishes!



Lifeguards Jenny Sterner and Kristina Hickle sled down Memories Mountain!



Christmas Memories Staff takes a break to pose for a picture! Pictured (I-r): Parks and Rec Assistant Kristina Hickle, Public Works Employees Dan Denny and Joseph French, and Parks and Rec Employee Higinio Sanchez



Christmas Memories 2010



Residents warm up by the campfires



The Queen Theatre Singers filled the air with Christmas carols



The lifeguard staff helped out with the festivities! Pictured (l-r): Top Row: Mark Jessup and Christian Kelly. Bottom Row: Vinnie Doina, Sammi Ferriera, Francis Tan, Jenny Sterner, Kristina Hickle, and Laura Sterner

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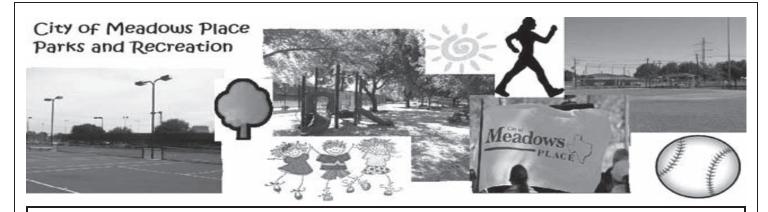
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Pre-registration is required and most classes have a minimum/maximum enrollment. PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!!!

Call Parks and Recreation for information @ 281-983-2935 or email us: monya@cityofmeadowsplace.org or parks3@cityofmeadowsplace.org Unless otherwise noted, Meadows Place Community Center/Pool will be the location for all activities. You can download registration form from the website: www.cityofmeadowsplace.org

Classes

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF KARATE (A.S.K.)

The American Society of Karate is an association designed to teach American Karate to ages 5–70 in a positive everchanging system. Its goal is not necessarily to be the largest, but to be the best. This class has been on going for 17 years at the

Community Center and welcomes new students.

Meadows Winter Karate

Starts: Thursday, January 20, 2011

Ends: Thursday, March 31, 2011 No class Spring Break

\$45--10 Week Session

\$30--Uniform (sorry no checks, CASH ONLY) All Students MUST Register and pay Class

Fee by Third Week

Time: 6:30pm - 7:30pm Junior Class (Ages 5-12)

7:30pm - 8:30pm Adult Classes (Ages 13 and up)

Where: Community Center

Instructors: Steve Puma, Meadows Place resident (3rd

Degree Black Belt), Michael Puma (2nd Degree Black Belt), and Steve Court (1st Degree Black

Belt)

New students will be accepted the 1st 3 weeks. You may try

the 1st class *Free* before you sign up.

Children must be 5 years of age.



TENNIS LESSONS

Please contact Fort Bend Tennis Services at 281-980-4219 if you are interested in joining Tennis Classes. Fort Bend Tennis Services provides a Tennis Pro for each class for instruction. All classes are held at City of Meadows Place Tennis Courts. You do not have to be a resident to enroll in these classes.

Additional classes may be added if there are enough requests.

Friday - 5:30 – 6:55pm Junior Adv Beg – ages 8 – 14yrs - \$60/month (4 weeks)

 $\begin{array}{c} \textbf{Saturday} \text{ - } 8:00-9:25 am \\ \textbf{Adult Beg/Adv Beg - age 18 and up - $60/month (4 weeks)} \end{array}$

You can enroll in classes online at fortbendtennis.com

P/ARKS & REGREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION

Happy New Year!

BULLETIN BOARD

Recycle Tree

January Winter Taekwondo, Karate

and Tennis Lessons Begin

January 7 Last Day for Christmas

Tree Recycling

Don't forget to Register for Fall Programs! Contact Parks Department about Registration!



Letters to Santa





eadows Place Ladies Bowling meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. at the Stafford Bowling Lanes. If you are interested, please contact Bell Murray 281-495-3297 or Betsy Galona at 281-498-8330.





Early bird sign up, get a free uniform! **(First 5 only) come earn a belt**

SHARPEN YOUR MIND, STRENGTHEN YOUR BODY



Fall Schedule

Class will be held every Monday

Where: City of Meadows Place Community Center 11975 Dorrance Lane, next to Meadows

Elementary School.

Time: 5:00 - 6:00pm, 6:00 - 7:00pm (2 classes on Monday)

5:00 - 6:00pm (1 class only on Wednesday)

Starts: January 10, 2011

Ends: March 30, 2011

Fee: 18 classes for \$89.00 9 classes for \$45.00

Instructor: Jenny Pless (City of Meadows Place

resident, teaching at the community center

since 2006)

Please call Jenny to sign up! 281-788-8564 or jennypless@gmail.com



By Beverly Martin, Publicity

The Home and Garden Club's donation to the Elementary School for the Christmas tree and Holiday decorations really made it look very festive for the students to enjoy.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be on Tuesday, January 11 at 7:00 at the Community Center. Representatives from Children's' Protective Services and The Rainbow Room will be speaking to us about the services they provide in Fort Bend County. Please join us. For more information call Kay at 281.933.0729.

Tuesday, January 25th Lunch Bunch TBD- Dunham Bible Museum Tour and Lunch at Baugh Center at Houston Baptist University. Call Kay at 281.933.0729.

The Christmas Yard of the Month winners are listed below. Everyone did a great job of making Meadows Place light up and look spectacular. Thanks for the hard work.

Christmas Yard of the Month Winners:

Section I

Rosemary M. Boyd 11418 Brighton Lane

Section II

Gertrude and Robert Alvarez 11907 Scottsdale Drive

Section III

Ken and Jayne Pride 12030 Scottsdale Drive

Section IVS

James and Lynn Sefcovic 12315 Hoggard

Section IVN

Terry and Ann Moles 12327 Meadow Hollow

Section V

Mr and Mrs. Justin Mbala 12203 Meadow Lane Ct.

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. The appearance of paid advertising is not an endorsement by the City.

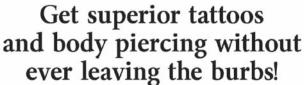
- William Sutherland Handyman Repairs. Appliance, Electrical, Plumbing, Clean out sewer line from 2"-8" pipe. Power washing, interior/exterior, Carpentry work, Painting, Concrete, Tiles. Cell 713-384-2817 / 281-568-0308
- Onyx Landscape residential and commercial. Total lawn care, fertilization, flowerbeds, and mulch. Seasonal flowers, sod, tree trimming, tree removal, wood fence installation and repair. Meadows Place resident. Free estimates. Manuel 281-865-6636.
- Mary Kay Cosmetics. Pamper yourself with a complementary makeover just in time for the holidays. Call Carol Evans 281-933-8298. Meadows Place resident.
- Registered Home for 22 yrs. Child Care Provider Looking for Fulltime/Part time/Drop ins over Holidays. Infants/Toddlers/Afterschoolers. First Aid and CPR. Breakfast, Lunch-Snacks Provided. Fenced in back yard. Day care room with lots of toys- 7:30A.M.TO 5:30 P.M. Call for interview. 281-222-3640

The City of Meadows Place

would like to wish all of our friends and neighbors a very

Happy New Year and a wonderful

2011!





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-Headaches/Migraines -Depression

-Minor Emergencies

-Urgent Care

-Family/Internal Medicine

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Registration Days:

Sat. Jan. 8th, 15th, 22nd @ 10:00am - 2:00pm Wed. Jan. 19th @ 6:00pm - 8:00pm

2010 Spring Divisions:

Machine Age: 7, 8 T-Ball Age: 4, 5, 6

Minors Age: 9, 10 Majors Age: 11, 12 (Open Bases)

All Skill Levels Welcomed!!

Boys and Girls from all over the greater Houston area are Welcomed!!

Registration Location:

City of Meadows Community Center



For more information see our web site www.eteamz.com/meadowsplacebaseball

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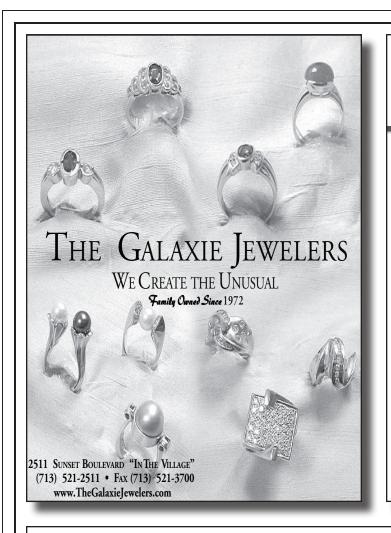
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e-mail: alderman1@cityofmeadowsplace.org		
ALDERMAN Terry Henley (281) 530-7136		
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CITY SECRETARYElaine Herff		

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