

MCIA .....	2
Home and Garden Club .....	2
Parks Department .....	3
Christmas Memories & Classified.....	4
Advertisements .....	5-7



Mayor Mark McGrath

**COMMENTS FROM THE MAYOR**

By *Mark McGrath*

## State of the City

2003 was another busy year for the City of Meadows Place. Phase 2 of the repair and rehabilitation of the City's sanitary sewer system was completed in 2003. In addition, Phase 2 of the City's street repair project was also completed. Finally, the Community Center underwent a significant renovation. The interior of the building was reconfigured, tripling the capacity for patrons of this facility. The City was the proud recipient of a grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This \$50,000 grant, along with City and community matching funds, will be used to build a pavilion adjacent to Pender Park, install lights on the majors baseball field and rebuild the track in the City's 8 acre park. These improvements will be completed in 2004. City Council, concurrent with the recommendation of the City's Planning and Zoning Commission, approved the zoning for Meadows Place Senior's Village in 2003. This 12 million dollar project is scheduled to break ground in 2004. There are other projects to look forward to in 2004. Your City engineers are doing the design work for another round of street repairs. It is anticipated this round will be funded with a bond issue in the amount of \$1,250,000 to be sold late 2004 or early 2005. For those of you who are plagued with bird baths in front of your house, help is on the way. We appreciate your continued patience. City Council, in a joint project with Meadows Economic Development Corporation, authorized the consulting firm of Knudson and Associates to study the old Garden Ridge site and adjacent property. The purpose of the study will be to identify options for enhancing the marketability of this property and what incentives the City can offer to assist this effort. Once the options are identified, public input will be actively solicited before any final decisions are made by Council. This project is ongoing. Progress will be described in future editions of this newsletter.

In closing, I want to repeat a statement I made at this time last year: "With all these changes taking place, one thing remains constant. It is my goal to bring you quality City services at reasonable prices. Whether you are raising a family, entertaining visiting grandchildren, or just looking for a safe, clean environment in which to live, we look forward to providing the foundation to enhance your activities."

On behalf of City Council and City employees, I wish you a safe and prosperous 2004..

### CITY ORDINANCE / CODE ENFORCEMENT

The holidays are now behind us and hopefully all decorations have been safely stored away. If you have not removed outdoor decorations and/or lights, please do so by January 31st. Lingering decorations affect the appearance of the whole city, not just your property. Thanks for your cooperation.

#### 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 show below for garage sale dates.

**Upcoming sale dates are:**

- January 30 & 31, 2004
- March 26 & 27, 2004
- May 28 & 29, 2004
- July 30 & 31, 2004
- September 24 & 25, 2004

**CITY HALL OFFICE HOURS**  
9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

#### CITY OF MEADOWS PLACE

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

MAYOR.....**Mark McGrath** (281) 568-1553  
e-mail: mayor@cityofmeadowsplace.org

ALDERMAN .....**Terry Henley** (281) 530-7136  
e-mail: alderman4@cityofmeadowsplace.org

ALDERMAN.....**Charles Jessup** (281) 568-3461  
e-mail: alderman1@cityofmeadowsplace.org

ALDERMAN .....**Joe McCann** (281) 498-2082  
e-mail: alderman2@cityofmeadowsplace.org

ALDERMAN .....**David J. Piwonka** (281) 498-3336  
e-mail: alderman3@cityofmeadowsplace.org

ALDERMAN.....**Leen Zellers** (281) 530-0390  
e-mail: alderman5@cityofmeadowsplace.org

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

EMERGENCY .....	9-1-1
CITY HALL.....	(281) 983-2950
POLICE DEPARTMENT / 24 Hours .....	(281) 983-2900
FT. BEND COUNTY SHERIFF .....	(281) 342-6116
WATER AND SEWER .....	(281) 983-2950
FT. BEND COUNTY COURTHOUSE .....	(281) 342-3411
ANIMAL CONTROL .....	(281) 342-1512
PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT .....	(281) 983-2935



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## **FROM THE PARKS DEPARTMENT PARKS PROJECTS UPDATE**

**New awesome shade structures have been put over the city " baby pool" at the Community Center and the bleachers at the baseball field. Eventually, we plan to place these around the city in other areas as well.** Texas Parks and Wildlife has approved grant funds for parks projects in Meadows Place. The following projects will be included in that plan: resurfacing the jogging trail, lights on the major's baseball field and a covered pavilion located near the tennis courts in the playground area. We have plans to complete the lighting project by March for the opening season of baseball. The jogging trail and pavilion, along with smaller recreational items, will follow the March date for lights.

Other parks projects include resurfacing the tennis courts playing area. The existing surface is deteriorating and needs some work. We are in the planning stages of getting bids for this project. The Parks Department has applied for an additional grant from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, with submission for the next grant being January 31, 2004. The projects included in this grant are: tennis court lights and fence renovations, playground update, park signage, barbecue grills, and decking and updating of facilities within the pool area. Other recreational items are included in this grant project as well. Texas Parks and Wildlife notifies grant recipients by August of each year if their grants were approved. Contact the Parks office if you have any suggestions for park improvements or if you are interested in volunteering some time helping to get state grant funds awarded to our City.

Meadows Place resident, Jeanette Difillippo has been very instrumental in the long hours of planning and preparing for grants. We are very fortunate to be able to work with proud city residents like Jeanette on such rewarding projects.

Thank you Jeanette.

Contact the Parks Department if you are interested in getting involved.  
terry@cityofmeadowsplace.org  
281-983-2935

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### **WEIGHT WATCHERS**

The weight watchers group that was meeting on Wednesday mornings at our community center is starting up again. You do not have to be a resident to join the group, so if you are interested, feel free to bring a friend. There are a minimum number of people required on a regular basis in order to maintain a Weight Watchers group. If you would like to join up, call the parks and Recreation Department for more information. We would like to keep this group going on Wednesdays in our City Community Center, so if you are already a part of this existing group, contact the parks office to leave your name and number so we can contact you with the exact start up date.

281-983-2935  
terry@cityofmeadowsplace.org

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### **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.

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### **TIPS FROM THE FIRE MARSHAL**

**Kitchen Tips:** It is wise to have a fire extinguisher near the kitchen. Keep it 10 feet away from the stove on the exit side of the kitchen. Never pour water on a grease fire; turn off the stove and cover the pan with a lid, or close the oven door. Keep pot handles on the stove pointing to the back, and always watch young children in the kitchen.



## CHRISTMAS MEMORIES 2003

Friday, December 12th neighbors and friends came out to enjoy the Annual Christmas Memories. The event is held in the city municipal park every year on the second Friday in December. As in previous years, the event included plenty of festive activities to kick off the Christmas Season. Hayrides, carriage rides, snow, backyard circus, puppet parade and more. The backyard circus under the big tent, directed by Brian and Walt Whittington, was a favorite for many. Santa's spectacular arrival in a Hummer was exciting for all the anxious children waiting to visit with him. Santa was escorted into the crowd by Meadows Place Police Department and the Ridgegate Elementary School marching band, directed by Kenyon Rodgers. Santa visited with hundreds of excited children. Children and families were able to visit with Santa and have their photo made. Photos are available to view on the City of Meadows Place website: [www.cityofmeadowsplace.org](http://www.cityofmeadowsplace.org)

Christmas glow in the dark necklaces, provided by the Parks Department, were given to the first 400 children who attended. Scout Troop 301 assisted with handing out the necklaces. City youth organizations (baseball, swim team, scouts) were a big part of the evening, selling warm food, drinks, Christmas Memories tee shirts and more holiday goodies. Something new this year was a target throw for the older participants in the snow activity. The snow area was monitored by Hightower ROTC members who braved the weather and stood in freezing, pouring down rain at times. Our special thanks to these volunteers.

Our city lifeguard staff helped out by volunteering with the carriage rides and hayrides. Special thanks to Meygan McGee, Chris Oltremari, Erin McGlasson, and Ryan Hand. Santa's Elves were hard working volunteers this year too and we appreciate their time and patience: Amanda McGuire, Kristina Hickle, Laura and Jennifer Sterner, Bejaim Keenen and Kristina Lee. The City Public Works staff was very helpful in getting an event of this size organized. Special thanks to the Public Works employees and Meadows Place Police Department. Christmas Memories is put on annually by the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Meadows Place. 281-983-2935.

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### CITY CALENDAR

January 27, 2003

City Council  
City Hall 7:30 p.m.

### PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT. 281-983-2935

#### COMMUNITY CENTER RENTAL

Food and no alcohol . . . . .	\$150.00
Food and alcohol . . . . .	\$250.00
Nonresidents add . . . . .	\$50.00

#### POOL/TENNIS ACCESS CARDS

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## Before the Interview

If you are in the process of seeking new employment and have an important job interview scheduled, you will want to be as properly prepared as possible. This enables you to more comfortably handle any challenges that may come your way. Your well-spent time will pay off exponentially as you enter the interview with confidence.

As you prepare, one of the first things you will want to do is learn everything you can about the company, position and the person conducting the interview. The more you know about your prospective employer, the more you can clearly and concisely communicate your answers. Furthermore, you may want to review your work experience, focusing your skills, talents and knowledge that proves beneficial to your new employer. Go over all the facts of your resume and/or application such as dates, times, location and positions previously held. Pay careful attention to education and on the job training that may set you apart from the competition.

It is important to remember that a successful interview is a two-way process. Just as the company has a list of questions, so should you. Your well thought out questions give the interviewer additional insight regarding your preparedness and the answers will help assist you in deciding if this is the right move for you.

There will rarely be a more opportune time for you to make a good first impression. Your appearance and the way you communicate are extremely important. That is why it is advantageous for you to rehearse every aspect of the process. Ask a friend for help. Together, practice your interviewing techniques, paying careful attention to verbal and non-verbal skills. Use this time to work on positive body language such as handshakes, facial expressions, direct eye contact, etc. Incorporate conversation into your role play until you are completely comfortable using important key words. For the full effect, you may even want to rehearse in the clothes you plan to wear.

The library and internet offer numerous interviewing tips. Experts share both general and industry-specific advice, along with extensive lists of questions that many companies ask. Take advantage of their expertise—you'll be glad you did!!

List w/MeadowsPlaceHomes.com by February 29th and receive a buyer/seller protection plan.

## Mardi Gras! Galveston 2004

Elvis sightings are entirely possible when Galveston Island's annual Mardi Gras festival time travels this year in a tribute called "Let's Rock and Roll." More than 50 theme-related events are planned for the pre-Lenten weeks of carnival season, which starts on "King's Day," **Jan. 6**, and builds up to Fat Tuesday, **Feb. 24**. The colorful processions, elaborate masked balls, museum exhibits, film screenings, sporting events and theatrical performances make for good times all over town. Three stages of live entertainment begin weekend evenings of Feb. 13-14 and 20-21 in the Strand National Historic District. Revelers from near and far flock to the Island for the merrymaking. For information, call (888) 425-4753 or visit [www.mardigrasgalveston.com](http://www.mardigrasgalveston.com).

## Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo celebrates Texas traditions as only Houston can — with size, style and sizzle. Each year, a million fans head to Reliant Park to sample and see the variety of events and sights. The fun begins **Feb. 26-28** with the World's Championship Bar-B-Que Contest as well as the western skill demos and competitions of Go Texan Weekend **Feb. 28-29**. Helping to spur interest and enthusiasm, the annual Rodeo Parade brings cowboys and frontier fun to city streets downtown on **Feb. 28**. **RODEOHOUSTON™** at Reliant Stadium runs **March 2-21**. World champions compete in bull riding, barrel racing, steer wrestling and more. Award-winning barbecue and country fare flavor the atmosphere for those who come to enjoy the evening concerts by country-and-western superstars and other famous musicians. The Houston Livestock Show™ at Reliant Center hosts cattle shows and acres of animals raised by 4H and FFA members. Stop by the popular Destination: AGventure, where interactive exhibits educate and entertain. Equine events are held at Reliant Arena. An outdoor carnival offers fun for the entire family. For more information, call (832) 667-1000 or visit the Web sites at [www.rodeohouston.com](http://www.rodeohouston.com) or [www.hlsr.com](http://www.hlsr.com).

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New awesome shade structures have been put over the city "baby pool" at the Community Center and the bleachers at the baseball field. Eventually, we plan to place these around the city in other areas as well.

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