



Shoreacres Shorts

June 2006

Message from Nancy, Your Former Mayor

After serving 1½ years as alderman and 4½ years as mayor, I decided to not run for reelection this year. It was a wonderful experience but it is time to move on to new challenges. I am blessed with the ability to turn the city over to a wonderful new mayor, Jayo Washington, and a dedicated city council. The city is in great hands! But before moving on, I wanted a chance to review the accomplishments of the past few years and to say thanks to the citizens of Shoreacres for the faith you placed in me.

In letters I wrote when I first ran for City Council and for mayor, I listed the following goals for the city: improve the quality of life, involve Shoreacres in local and regional issues, improve critical City infrastructure, and bring professional management to City functions. I am proud to say that all were accomplished or are underway. I can't list everything here but let me provide a few examples.

Using grant funds, we have renovated Circle Park, developed the garden next to City Hall, purchased Heron Park, and have recently been awarded a grant to purchase another bayou-front park. A developer donated another small park. All of these acquisitions will double the City's park space — critically important as the city fills in and less undeveloped land is available as open space.

And speaking of grants, the City now actively pursues local, state, and federal grants to assist with parks development and infrastructure needs (such as the new handicapped-accessible rest room at City Hall). Bringing new revenue sources into the City is the best way to do more for the citizens with the least burden on our tax rate.

We have repaved (or paved) more streets and re-dug more ditches in the last five years than were done over the prior twenty. There is still more to be done but we now have a ten-year capital improvement plan that lays out how we maintain our critical infrastructure.

The City now has a professional city administrator to lead City staff. City management — even in a small town — is increasingly complex and bringing professional expertise to the task will again allow us to do more for less. The new city administrator is leading an extremely competent team of police officers, public works staff, and administrative support to even higher levels of professionalism and efficiency. The status quo is no longer good enough for our city to remain competitive and this one-step is critical to moving us into the 21st century.

Shoreacres is special because the citizens care and the citizens are involved. In addition to your council and mayor, many citizens in Shoreacres volunteer extensive time and money in making our community better. And that is the message I want to leave with you. You will get out of a community what you put into it. Donate your time and expertise and the effort will be repaid to you over and over again—through increased property values, through meeting and enjoying your neighbors, and, probably most importantly, through increased sense of place and value in your home and community. I didn't "spend" the last 6 years as alderman and mayor—I invested it!

Fishing Class – Saturday, July 12th & 26th

A free summer fishing program titled, "*Basic Bay Fishing Techniques*" sponsored by the Shoreacres Parks & Recreation Advisory Board will begin July 12th. The program will be presented at Shell Beach by Mike Shannahan who writes a fishing column for the Bayshore Sun. The class will address bay fishing from the shore and piers. Participants will use their own equipment and bait for the two-hour evening classes (6:30p). The program is very basic and is open to adults and children ages six and older (children 6-10 must be accompanied by an adult). Participants must have appropriate licenses. This casual program will be presented July 12 & 26; and, August 9 & 23. You can attend any or all of these free sessions.