



A MESSAGE FROM OUR MAYOR

FEBRUARY 2020



Happy New Year! I hope you and your families have had a wonderful start to 2020. As the members of Council and I look ahead to the new year, one of our top priorities is to engage fully with our residents in every corner of Clear Lake Shores, and it is in that spirit that I welcome you to my first Mayor's Message of 2020, a monthly letter to give you some insight into what's happening in City Hall, and around Clear Lake Shores. Can you believe it is 2020? With the year being 2020 I have to say it gets me thinking about my own vision of what used to be considered 20/20 and how things have changed over the years. It also makes me think about our own City vision and what clarity do we have for the future of Clear Lake Shores. City Council, EDC, the City leadership team, and I have put together a new strategic plan for the City that describes our vision, mission, strengths, and future projects. We will be sharing this document on social media and our website in February 2020.

There are so many great things happening in our community, and I know I speak for both, myself and all of Council, when I say we are looking forward to another year of working to move Clear Lake Shores forward in every aspect. As we begin the New Year, Clear Lake Shores remains a strong, vibrant and thriving community. We are in a strong position financially; community-wide, we have maintained a strong mix of residential area and commercial growth, with an emphasis on preserving our eclectic way of living in our City. We also need to remember that "our City" stretches outside of the island. Even the large stores like Target and Home Depot are making major upgrades to their buildings over the next two years, which is great to see that commitment to our location. There is even a new McDonalds going in to the East of Chick-fil-a in one of the front pad sites as well as a possibility for some additional storefronts between IHOP and Wendy's.

Our community remains an ideal place to live, to make your home, to raise a family, and to spend your life. During the holiday, it was so nice to see everyone out and about, riding bikes, playing in the streets and using our City Parks. It reminds me much of what I had as a kid and it is good to see the kids of today doing the same.

I often compare Clear Lake Shores to a large quilt of neighbors, each with their own unique character—all woven together to form the fabric of our community. The ties that bind that quilt together are the things that we all value: preserving the integrity of our neighborhood; public safety, roads, recreation and open space; our excellent schools; strong municipal services; a thriving and diverse commercial base that has helped us hold the line on having no municipal taxes—and directly enabled us to maintain no tax now for eight years. Our police department has also worked hard to enhance its community-outreach efforts, to what I believe is becoming a great success.

We have recently brought onboard Adriana Richey as our new City Communications Specialist and she has hit the ground running with so many great public notices along with starting up the “Meet CLS” series where we will be featuring our City Staff, Council and many of our volunteers. We will also be rolling out another series called “Visit CLS” where we will promote all of our local businesses and have monthly features on our businesses. In addition, inside city hall, we continue to run a government that is efficient, effective and accessible. These are the things that have made and continue to make the City of Clear Lake shores such an ideal community to call home.

However, our continued success depends, first and foremost, on continued engagement with our residents. I want all of you to know that our doors are always open. It also depends upon the continued cooperation of myself, the members of Council, our awesome volunteers that make up various committees and our team of dedicated professionals who work inside city hall every day to effect positive change in our community.

You can contact me at any time via email at Mayor@clearlakeshores-tx.gov, or you can call my cell phone at (832) 584-0975. You can stay informed via this monthly column or by following us on social media and our website @CityofCLS or www.clearlakeshores-tx.gov.

Lastly, I am thrilled to share my participation in the 2020 It's Time Texas Community Challenge. I need your help to make sure our community wins this health competition!

Taking place January 6 – March 1, the Community Challenge is a statewide competition inspiring people, organizations, and cities across Texas to choose healthy activities in support of a healthier community. You sign up on behalf of your city or school district and earn points for your community with every healthy action you submit.

At the end of the 8-week challenge, the cities and school districts with the most points in each size category get a cash prize to put toward a community health project. There are also regular prize giveaways for individual participants.

Even more than the competition, the It's Time Texas Community Challenge is about encouraging each other to lead healthier lives and build a stronger, more connected community.

Here's how you can get involved:

- **Make the Commitment:** It's free and easy to sign up at www.ittcommunitychallenge.com
- **Track Your Activities:** Submit your healthy activities to earn points for your community and prizes for yourself
- **Share the Journey:** Use #CommunityChallenge to connect on social media and encourage others in our community to get involved
- Our first community event for the year will be the Cajun Crawl 5K Fun Run scheduled for February 22, 2020. Please register online at www.CLSGumbo.com.

It's completely free to participate and you'll earn 500 points just by signing up. Here's where to start: ittcommunitychallenge.com.

Come on Clear Lake Shores, let's commit to a healthier 2020 – and let's win this thing.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kurt