

# seabrook **REVIEW**



Official City of Seabrook  
Information Source

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2017  
Meet the Candidates pg. 5&6

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# Dear Residents,

I first fell in love with Seabrook as a boy, when my mother would take me crabbing under the draw bridge. We would stop at Curly's Corner for crabbing supplies and finish the day with a run by the shrimp boats. Years later, as a young man, I was most fortunate in meeting my future wife, Diane in Seabrook too. Over the last six years as your mayor, I've heard from many of you with similar personal stories of Seabrook, talking about how the community has grown and changed over the years. I suppose we all have our own "Seabrook Love" story.

When I was first elected to City Council in 2011, the city was still in full recovery mode from the devastations of Hurricane Ike. Many projects that were funded from Ike recovery grants had yet to



be started and the 20-year old State Highway 146 saga was delaying economic development for the city. Businesses would not relocate, nor reinvest, due to the uncertainties of highway construction.

The expansion of the Panama Canal and billions of investment dollars by petro chemical companies for the manufacture of plastic resin has and will continue to have the greatest impact on Seabrook. This investment in our region has led to an explosive population growth to the south of Seabrook resulting in major traffic congestion. We now have succeeded in getting the approval for SH 146 Expansion Project with construction to let in May 2018. As mayor, I saw the need to cultivate a relationship with TxDOT. It is our relationship with TxDOT that has allowed us to incorporate Seabrook's needs into the design, including aesthetics, as opposed to regional transportation demands dictating to us what SH 146 would eventually become. For example, an arterial feeder road was not included initially on the design all the way down the east side of the project boundaries on the north side of the city limits. This issue was identified with TxDOT officials that it would not allow for current and future business access to flow through our city. With negotiations, the design was modified thus giving much needed access in that area for our commercial business tax base.

While the SH 146 project is likely what I'll be remembered for, there have been many projects that council and staff have completed over the years to improve our small bayside town. Hurricane Ike recovery funds were used to expand and improve the Pine Gully Channel bringing flood relief to many homes. Waterfront Drive was also elevated and improved. We have refinanced the city's debt saving several hundred thousand dollars in interest expenses and have taken advantage of historical low interest rates to issue new public approved debt

for the new Animal Control and Public Works facility, splash pads, fire truck, and fiber optic network. During my time in office, Seabrook has seen its property value increase from \$842 million to over \$1.1 billion as dozens of new businesses have relocated to Seabrook while the city's tax rate has declined from .6499 cents in 2011 to .5951 cents today, an 8.4% decrease. In addition, we have doubled the city's reserves in anticipation of business slowdown during SH 146 construction so we can operate on savings instead of asking the taxpayers to raise their rates.

Other achievements over the past six years includes the addition of a Communication department, development of the city's Master Comprehensive Plan, new city events, establishment of economic incentives for small businesses and most importantly, steps to improve the safety of our residents with our Safe and Secure City initiatives.

While serving as your mayor may have been challenging at times, it has been a true honor. Seabrook may no longer be the small bayside town I remember visiting as a boy, but the residents are the same, and it is the residents of Seabrook that make this a town to "Love".

Mayor of Seabrook, TX



## OUR VISION

Seabrook is a sustainable, energetic and beautiful coastal community that embraces environmental stewardship, fosters safe neighborhoods and promotes tourism and economic diversity.

## CITY COUNCIL

Mayor, Glenn Royal  
Mayor Pro Tem, O.J. Miller  
Position 1, Robert Llorente  
Position 2, Mike Giangrosso  
Position 3, Gary Johnson  
Position 4, Melissa Botkin  
Position 5, Glenna Adovasio

## CITY MANAGEMENT

City Manager, Gayle Cook  
Deputy CM, Sean Landis

## CITY SECRETARY

Robin Hicks

## CITY ATTORNEY

Steve Weathered

*Editor & Designer of  
Seabrook's City Review  
LeaAnn Dearman, CPC  
Director of Communications*

# Seabrook Traffic

As our community and the general area continues to grow, there has been a significant increase of traffic on our roadways.



**THE SHEER VOLUME OF TRAFFIC** on our streets is at levels rarely seen in previous years. The Seabrook Police Department is aware and wants our citizens to know that traffic safety and traffic enforcement is a department priority. The SPD understands that with the expansion of SH 146 that the traffic issues will get worse and be around for the next several years. It is the duty of the SPD to be prepared to address these traffic concerns. The Police Department's approach is to be prepared much like how the city prepares for a storm in the gulf.

The SPD is currently working with other city departments in addition to other local agencies to address the traffic concerns. The department tries to respond as soon as practical to address traffic concerns that citizens have. The SPD utilizes social media and technology to open the avenues of communications with the community. Many citizens relay traffic concerns to the police department through our Citizen Request Tracker on the city's website at [www.seabrooktx.gov/citizenrequests](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/citizenrequests). Over the past year, the SPD established a Speed Watch program, where through technology they can respond to traffic concerns in a more efficient and effective way. Speed Watch allows citizens to make a request for specialized equipment to be deployed in an area of concern. The data recorded by the equipment includes the day of the week, time of day, vehicle speed and the number of vehicles. This data is then analysed and a report is generated so that the SPD can respond based on the data collected. This program puts the officers where they are needed to address the traffic issues.

The Chief of Police, encourages all citizens to utilize the Citizen Request Tracker to inform the city of traffic concerns in their neighborhood. Seabrook officers and Seabrook City Council understand there are traffic issues and concerns in Seabrook and we will continue to prioritize traffic safety.

# SEABROOK READY



Stay Informed



Have a Plan



Build a Kit



## HURRICANE PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP

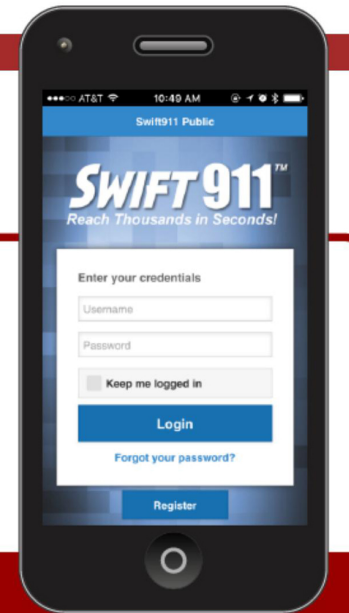
The Seabrook Office of Emergency Management will host a Hurricane Preparedness Workshop on Tuesday, May 30, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. at the new Public Works Complex, located at 1100 Red Bluff Rd. Seabrook, TX, 77586.

This workshop is free and open to the entire community. Presentations will be made by the city's Director of Emergency Management, our Community Development Department, our Communications Department and the National Weather Service.

Did you know that City of Seabrook now has an emergency notification app? Go to [www.seabrooktx.gov/alerts](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/alerts) to sign up for our emergency alerts!



**seabrookalerts**  
powered by Swift911



**REGISTER OR UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION**

## MAKE A PLAN & BUILD A KIT

Your family may not be together when disaster strikes, so it is important to plan in advance. Create a Family Emergency Plan that contains important information about doctors, medical insurance, out-of-town contacts, pet information and much more.

In addition to your plan, Build a Kit, that contains essential supplies like food, water, cash, clothes, first aid and much more. Learn how to create a Plan and Build a Kit online at [www.seabrooktx.gov/beready](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/beready).

stay connected during an emergency



# Meet the Candidates

The City of Seabrook will be holding a Mayoral and City Council Election on Saturday, May 6, 2017.



"I am **Kim Morrell** and I am running for Mayor. I am a fiscal conservative and have lived in Seabrook for 14 years with my wife and two sons. I own Your Printing Now / UPS Store on NASA Pkwy.

I served on City Council from 2006 to 2012 and Mayor Pro-Tem in 2009. We secured \$8-million in grants after Ike and settled the lawsuit with the Port and negotiated the donation of land for our new public works facility, building the fire department, headquartering emergency services, renewing our trails, placing sound barriers to buffer port noise, refurbishing our swimming pool and protecting Pine Gully and wetlands.

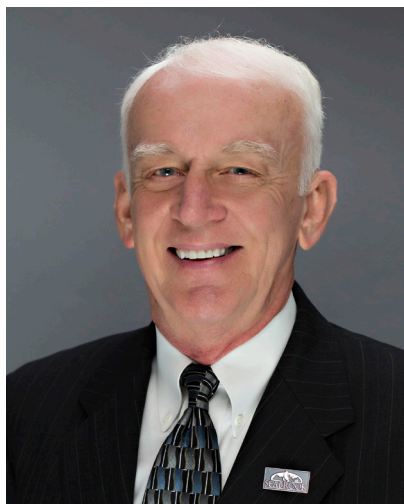
I served on the Master Plan Committee until its conclusion this year. Road construction will be top priority on my agenda and I will work closely with everyone to make construction as smooth as possible and re-locate local businesses."



**Thom Kolupski** is a former City Council member, and is running for Mayor and has been a Seabrook resident for 18 years with wife Tamara and 3 children. His oldest son Colin is a Texas State Trooper, the youngest son Evan is a Construction Manager, and his daughter Paige is a sophomore at Texas A&M University.

Kolupski is the owner of an Architectural / Engineering Project Management firm with extensive experience of major construction projects around Clear Lake, Houston and the State of Texas.

He has served two terms on Seabrook City Council and two terms as the Vice-Chairman on the City of Seabrook Planning and Zoning Commission. Author of multiple ordinances including: The Point Overlay District Ordinance, the High Rise Ordinance, the Lighting Ordinance, and the Buffering Ordinance, all regulations which were established to protect residents from adverse conditions arising from new development.



**Mayor Pro Tem, O.J. Miller**, is currently the incumbent for At-Large Position No. 6 and is running unopposed. Miller was elected to the Seabrook City Council in May 2014. He is retired from law-enforcement and served as Chief of Police in his hometown of new Martinsville West Virginia.

O. J. Is currently a Council representative to the Board of Directors of the Clear Lake Emergency Medical Corps, member of the Public Safety Committee for Seabrook, liaison with the Galveston Bay Foundation, and has served as Council representative to the City's Economic Development Corporation.

O. J. has enjoyed his tenure as City Councilman, and looks forward to continuing to serve the citizens of the City of Seabrook. He and his partner, Michael, have lived in Seabrook since 2001.



**Laura Davis** is a former City Council member, and is running for At-Large Position No. 2. She and her husband, Ernie, have lived in Seabrook for 13 years. They have two children currently attending Seabrook Intermediate.

Laura has a B.S. in Political Science from Texas A&M, and she has worked at University Baptist Church for 11 years. She has a rich history of volunteerism with the City beginning in 2005 as a member, and then chair, of the Hotel Tax Committee. She was elected to City Council in 2008, and was re-elected to Council in 2011.

Laura was honored by her peers when they appointed her to be Mayor Pro Tem for the final two years of her second term. Since her term ended, she has served as Chairman of the Charter Review Commission and as a member of the Planning and Zoning Commission. Laura is dedicated to making a positive impact on the community in which she lives.



**Jared Kelly** is running for At-Large Position No. 2 and he is a graduate of Arizona State University with an Interdisciplinary degree focused in Business and Political Science plus he was a Phi Theta Kappa. Kelly is a former Ethics Review Board member for the City of Seabrook. He has been a Seabrook resident since August 2014 after moving from Spring Texas.

Kelly is a current board member at Bay Area Little League Baseball and has coached and managed teams at Bayside baseball for the last three years. Kelly is currently the Vice President of Construction at Dynamic Builders and was an intern at both the State House of Representatives and Senate.

Kelly has been married for fifteen years to Moriah Kelly and they have four children; Ben 14, Caleb 10, Savannah 8 and Zachary 6. Kelly is also a former Boy Scout Den Leader.



**Natalie Picha** is running unopposed for At-Large Position No. 4 and has been a resident of Seabrook since 1997. She has served on the City's Charter Review Commission, Economic Development Corporation, and Civil Service Commission. She is a Senior Financial Advisor, Vice President with The Royal Group at Merrill Lynch. She has over 25 years of experience in strategic business development and 10 years in the transportation industry. She is the Associate Vice Chair for the AGC of Texas and board member for the Bay Area Transportation Partnership.

Natalie has chosen to run for City Council to volunteer her experience in transportation and business development as the City of Seabrook evolves with the State Highway 146 expansion project. It is her goal to see this project improve the residential quality of life while encouraging responsible commercial development. Natalie is married to Darrell Picha and has three daughters proudly raised in Seabrook, Leah 25, Lacey 23, and Layne 17. They are active members of Clear Creek Community Church.

Candidate bios and photos were provided by each candidate. The City of Seabrook does not support or oppose any candidate listed in this publication. Content provided is for informational purposes only. More information about the May Election is available on the city's website at [www.seabrooktx.gov/elections](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/elections).

# The City's Financial Health

Each year, the City of Seabrook is required to undergo an extensive financial audit conducted by an outside firm of licensed certified public accountants.

**THE CITY'S COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL REPORT (CAFR)** includes the annual audit along with a complete set of financial statements. This comprehensive report is commonly referred to as the CAFR and helps identify the financial health of the city.

Annual audit helps to ensure taxpayers' money is being spent according to state and federal mandates. The audit is always conducted by an independent firm of licensed certified public accountants and involves examining, testing, gathering evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management and finally evaluating the overall financial presentation. Once the audit is complete, the auditors will then render one of two "opinions"; an Unmodified Opinion or a Modified Opinion. It is the goal of the city to receive an Unmodified Opinion. A Modified Opinion means that the auditors found issues and concerns with what they discovered. An Unmodified Opinion means that the city's financial statements are presented fairly and conform to the Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

The City's CAFR is put together to show the overall financial standing and health of the city. Not only does it include the audited financial statements but it also includes the Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A), an informative section containing information plus insights on the economic environment from which it draws its resources and the use of the resources already in the city's control. The Required Supplemental Information (RSI) section incorporates the use of statistical data and supplements to the financial statements, these include things such as budget to actual comparisons, information on infrastructure conditions and pension information. Combining Statements, Individual Statements, and Schedules is a section that provides details on the non-major funds such as the park improvement fund or the seizure fund. In addition, the CAFR contains a statistical section which provides financial trends, revenue capacity, debt capacity, demographics and economics, all of which help to provide users a sense of the overall financial strength of the city.

The CAFR and the audited financials give a transparent view of how the city is spending money. It also helps taxpayers, investors, businesses, donors and others make informed decisions. In addition, the CAFR helps to establish the city's bond rating. Having a good bond rating allows the city to issue debt at a lower rate, saving taxpayers money. Since users see the city as having a strong financial health they are assured we are at lower risk of defaulting on repaying the debt. Not to mention, when the CAFR presents a healthy financial city it helps to entice businesses to move or grow within the city. There are many other benefits and long term decisions that derive from our CAFR, but they all begin with having a clean annual audit.

**The City's General Fund consists of approximately \$10.2 million.**

**Take a look at how we receive and spend the revenue compared to a \$1 bill.**



## NEW FLOOD MAPS ARE NOW IN EFFECT

**ON JANUARY 6, 2017**, the preliminary maps for Harris County released in 2012 (DFIRM March 29, 2013) became effective. Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) are issued by the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) to identify different levels of flood risks. Flood Insurance Rate Maps are primarily used to help determine flood insurance rates under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), but they are also used by the City of Seabrook to regulate development within those mapped Special Flood Hazard areas. The location of a property relative to certain flood zones indicates what restrictions or regulations may apply to new and/or substantially improved structures.

All residents and businesses are encouraged to learn more about the flood map changes and may do so by visiting our website at [www.seabrooktx.gov/flood](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/flood). If you would like more information on how your specific property is impacted by updated maps, please contact Seabrook's Floodplain Administrator by calling (281) 291-5638 or emailing [floodplain@seabrooktx.gov](mailto:floodplain@seabrooktx.gov).



Photo taken after Hurricane Ike



*April Showers brings May Flowers...*

**plus... high grass, weeds, stagnant water, mosquitos, and other nasty things...**

We love the rain and how green it makes everything, but please keep your yards and lots mowed and clean. Be sure to also remove standing water to help prevent mosquitos.

The City of Seabrook Code Enforcement can and will issue citations according to City Ordinance. You may report violations online at [www.seabrooktx.gov/citizenrequests](http://www.seabrooktx.gov/citizenrequests).



## City of Seabrook Contact Information

### CITY HALL



**(281) 291.5600**

1700 First Street  
Seabrook, TX 77586

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon- Thurs.  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays

Building Department: (281) 291.5669  
City Secretary: (281) 291.5663  
Customer Service: (281) 291.5713

### POLICE DEPARTMENT



**(281) 291.5610**

1400 Cook Street  
Seabrook, TX 77586

**Dial 911 in the event of an Emergency**

Open 24 hours

### MUNICIPAL COURT



**(281) 291.5674**

1700 First Street  
Seabrook, TX 77586

7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon- Thurs.  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Fridays

### ANIMAL CONTROL



**(281) 474.2590**

2101 Humble Drive  
Seabrook, TX 77586

By appointments only

Visit us online at [www.seabrooktx.gov](http://www.seabrooktx.gov)