

# Council Member Mike Sullivan's Newsletter

October 2009 | Volume 1 | Issue 6

Council Member  
Mike Sullivan



900 Bagby, First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

17629 El Camino Real  
Houston, TX 77058

**PHONE:**  
832.393.3008

**FAX:**  
832.393.3279

**E-MAIL:**  
DistrictE@CityofHouston.net

twitter

facebook

We're on the Web!  
See us at:  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

## Residents of District E,

Our council office continues to work hard serving you. This past month we addressed issues involving public safety, flooding and drainage, traffic signals, water bills with errors as well as a fast moving thunder storm that littered a neighborhood with debris and damaged trees. We strove to solve each problem to the satisfaction of our constituents. That remains my highest priority as your council member. I want you to know that my staff and I are always here to serve you.

Significant progress is being made on many projects in my council district. Both of the new libraries under construction are ahead of schedule and will open before the end of this calendar year; recycling volumes continue to grow at both the Kingwood and Ellington recycling locations; engineering is underway to improve major intersections by adding dedicated right turn lanes and extending left turn holding bays; two community centers are being designed right now; our parks and green spaces are scheduled for much needed improvements; and our major thoroughfares in my council district have seen almost \$1,000,000 in concrete repairs in the last 90 days. Last, but not least, we will be constructing some much needed sidewalks so our children can get safely to school and return home the same way. All of these projects are meant to better serve you and to give you a return on your tax dollars.

Of course, our biggest challenge going forward is how to manage our way through the current difficult financial times. I am not convinced that the worst has hit us yet. I believe that the trend of falling real estate values, coupled with declining sales tax revenues, will continue to have a negative impact on our entire city going forward. That is one reason why I am glad I was able to initiate and begin construction and design work on these projects listed above. It may become more difficult to deliver on these types of projects in the future, so I am grateful that the Mayor and city departments have worked so well with us to fast track them.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

**Mike Sullivan**  
Council Member

## Lake Houston Wilderness Park Master Plan Receives "Award of Excellence" for Planning and Analysis

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department with SWA Landscape Architects received an "Award of Excellence" by the Texas Chapter of American Society of Landscape Architects for the Lake Houston Wilderness Park Master Plan. The award recognizes HPARD's vision to develop Lake Houston Wilderness Park into an urban preserve where city dwellers of all ages can experience the forest environment and develop an appreciation for the wilderness, ecosystem and inhabitants.

The Park is located on the north boundary of Council Member Sullivan's District.



*SWA Architects Rep, James Vick and Council Member Sullivan*

## Humble ISD Meeting with Emergency Services



*Council Member Sullivan, Stephanie Rosenberg, HISD Police Chief Solomon Cook, Martha Buckner, Steve Cooper*

Council Member Sullivan organized a meeting with Humble Independent School District, Assistant Chief Karen Dupont with the Houston Fire Department and the Greater Houston 911 to discuss who would respond to emergency calls at Humble ISD campuses located within or near the City's ETJ. All parties gained a better understanding of HFD's responsibilities. Discussions were also facilitated about future possibilities for faculty and student education in regards to making emergency calls.

## Kingwood Library Construction Update

Construction on the new Kingwood Library is ahead of schedule. A picture is provided of last month's development and is published every month for residents to know what progress has been made.

To the right is a picture of the library as of September 1, 2009.

The new library is scheduled to open in December this year.



## Kingwood Library Hard Hat Tour



*General Services Director Issa Dadoush and Council Member Sullivan*

To see the progress of construction of the new Kingwood Branch Library, a hard hat tour was given last month to Council Member Sullivan, his staff and others involved in the project.

The 29,500 square foot facility is replacing the current 12,000 square foot building and has been designed to achieve LEED silver certification, which sustains the adoption of green building practices and implementation.

The new building will facilitate 400 occupants, and consist of a meeting room, children's activity room, conference room and four small study rooms. The public will also have access to 107 computers and laptops for their use.

The Kingwood Branch Library is scheduled to open this December and is located in Town Center.

## Town Hall Reminder, October 13

Council Member Sullivan's fall town hall meeting for Kingwood is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Creekwood Middle School located at 3603 Lake Houston Parkway. Kingwood residents are invited to attend and voice their concerns, present any questions, needs or suggestions they would like addressed in Kingwood.

Council Member Sullivan has also asked the Parks and Recreation Department to attend to present the schematic plans for the Kingwood Community Center. These plans will be revealed to the public for the first time at this town hall meeting.

For more information, please contact Karina Moreno at 832.393.3008.

## Project Updates

- Dedicated right turn lanes have been approved for all directions at the intersection of Kingwood Drive and West Lake Houston Parkway.
- The new Kingwood Library will be complete by December.
- Designs are underway for a new community center, which will be located at the old library site.
- Widening of Northpark is under design. Construction is scheduled to begin in April 2010.
- Concrete road repairs are nearly complete on all major thoroughfares.
- An additional \$289,000 has been earmarked for the Kingwood HPD substations for overtime programs and Mobility Response Teams.

## Bracewell Library Hard Hat Tour

Council Member Sullivan, his staff and Marie Flickinger with the South Belt Ellington Leader were given a hard hat tour of the new LEED Silver certified Bracewell Library located at 9002 Kingspoint Drive. The new 12,000 square foot facility will replace the existing Bracewell library by Almeda Mall. It will include children, teen and adult areas, as well as two conference rooms available for the community to use.

The current facility will close Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 pm. During the interim period, residents can visit Park Place Regional Library at 8145 Park Place Blvd.

The new library is scheduled to open in December 2009.



*GSD Sr. Project Mgr. Michelle Delk, South Belt Ellington Leader Owner Marie Flickinger, GSD Director Issa Dadoush and Council Member Sullivan*

## Tri Chamber Luncheon with Governor Perry



*David Flickinger, Chris Clark, Marie Flickinger, Governor Rick Perry, Sally Mitchell and Council Member Mike Sullivan*

The Deer Park, Pasadena and South Belt-Ellington Chambers of Commerce hosted a combined luncheon last month and welcomed Texas State Governor Rick Perry as the keynote speaker. Governor Perry spoke about how Texas is “business-friendly” and how the growth and economic strength and vitality it exudes makes it stand out.

Council Member Sullivan was a guest at the Clear Brook Municipal Utilities District table, and attended the luncheon to support the South Belt-Ellington Chamber, as it lies in his district.

## Project Updates

- Edgebrook construction is complete and now open.
- Sagemont Community Center design work is underway.
- Outdoor lighting for Law Park has been approved and will be installed in early 2010.
- South Shaver extension paving is planned to start in summer 2010. TXDOT will manage the project for the City of Houston.
- The new 12,000 square foot and LEED Silver certified J.S. Bracewell Library is set to open at the end of 2009.
- Monroe Road improvements are under construction and are set to be completed by Dec. 31, 2009.
- METRO has added additional bus trips to the afternoon Fuqua Park and Ride service.

## NASA/Johnson Space Center

During the last few months, the future of NASA's human space exploration program and leadership in the aerospace community has been spotlighted due to a new administration and a recent report put together by the Augustine Committee, a group of aerospace executives and astronauts.

Council Member Sullivan has taken the lead with the city in making sure that all action has been taken to promote manned space programs. He has been proactive in voicing his concern regarding the future of space exploration and the impact the Houston region will have if ongoing missions and plans are aborted due to lack of funding. He has met with Aerospace executives, Congressman Pete Olson, Senator John Cornyn, the City of Houston and the Greater Houston Partnership all in an effort of support to push for a brighter future for NASA/Johnson Space Center.

Council Member Sullivan urges you to write to your United States representatives in support of allocating more funding to NASA and its future endeavors. Please find a sample letter and list of federal and state officials attached to this newsletter.

## Clear Lake Town Hall Meeting

Last month, Council Member Sullivan hosted a town hall meeting at the University of Houston-Clear Lake for his south constituents. He highlighted a variety of different topics including completed concrete repairs, additional \$250,000 in overtime for the Clear Lake substation and the Master Plan for the Sylvan Rodriguez Park.

Representatives from the Houston Police Department, Houston Fire Department, Public Works and Solid Waste Department also updated residents with projects, changes and activity going on within Council Member Sullivan's district.



## BABA and Sentinels

On September 1, after being injured during the War in Iraq, retired Marine Cpl. Donny Daughenbaugh received a new home in the Victory Lakes subdivision in League City, courtesy of the Bay Area Builders Association and the Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation. Council Member Sullivan, along with Congressman Pete Olson, attended the event to show his unwavering support of the troops and the missions of the organizations.

BABA was established in 2005 to provide custom-made homes to wounded and disabled veterans. The Sentinels of Freedom Scholarship Foundation helps veterans readjust to their new physical and emotional challenges.



*Cpl. Donny Daughenbaugh with family and friends*

## Staples Office Supply Ribbon “Shredding”

On Tuesday, September 14th, Council Member Sullivan joined Harris County Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce and the public to help welcome the new Staples office supply store to Clear Lake by participating in a ribbon “shredding” that officially marked the opening of the new store.

During the grand opening ceremony Council Member Sullivan presented Staples with a certificate welcoming the store and employees to the community. This is the seventh Staples location in Houston and employs 20 associates.



*Sharon Jacobson, Commissioner Garcia, General Manager Catherine Girouard, Cindy Harreld and Council Member Sullivan*

## B.O.P.A at Ellington Field

The September B.atteries O.il P.aint and A.ntifreeze event at the Ellington Field Recycling Center was a huge success. Residents had the opportunity to drop off hard to dispose of items including Styrofoam and appliances. A total of 14,255 pounds of BOPA material and e-waste (computers and printers) was dropped off.

Council Member Sullivan thanks the Solid Waste Department and the many volunteers that participated in the event.

## Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Chairman’s Ball



*Council Member Sullivan with the Lockheed Martin table*

The Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce honored outgoing Chairman of the Board, Cathy Turner and welcomed incoming Chairman of the Board, Michael Divine at the 47<sup>th</sup> Annual “Saturday Night Fever” Chairman’s Ball last month at the South Shore Harbour Resort and Conference Center.

Turner, who served a year’s term and who also works for the Houston Chronicle, was thanked for her countless hours of commitment to the Chamber and the community.

Council Member Sullivan was a guest of Joe Mayer’s at the Lockheed Martin table.

## Project Updates

- Railroad crossings along Highway 3 at Clear Lake City Blvd., Pineloch and El Dorado have been repaired.
- Concrete repairs have been completed on all major Clear Lake area thoroughfares.
- \$250,000 in overtime has been designated for use by HPD Clear Lake substation.
- Ellington Airport has almost \$50 million dollars in military construction projects now underway.
- Council Member Sullivan received the Clear Lake traffic operations study draft. The final report should be ready by October 1, 2009.

## Water Resource Committee Meeting



A special called Water Resources Management Committee meeting was held in September to review the long term water supply contract with the San Jacinto River Authority. Deputy Director of Public Works and Engineering, Andy Icken, presented the contract to those in attendance. Icken and representatives from the San Jacinto River Authority were present to answer any questions Council Members or the public might have had.

The WRMC was formed in January 2009 to deal with issues of water quality, water supply and conservation of water, as well as issues relating to the Coastal Water Authority. Council Member Sullivan serves as Chair.

## Houston Police and Fire Department's 9-11 Memorial Service

The Houston Fire and Police Departments gathered together at the Houston Police Officer's Memorial the morning of September 11<sup>th</sup> to remember those lives lost eight years ago during the tragic and unforgettable attacks aimed at our country. Council Member Sullivan and his staff attended the ceremony to pay tribute to those fire fighters, police officers and citizens that perished during the events of that day.



## Houston Fire Fighters Foundation Rally at City Hall



The Fire Fighters Foundation of Houston hosted elected officials, community leaders and the general public at a rally at City Hall on September 11<sup>th</sup> in celebration to support the men and women of the Houston Fire Department.

The rally was organized to thank and pay tribute to the Houston fire fighters for their courageous and selfless services they give to protect the city's homes, families and businesses. As an avid supporter of the Houston Fire Department, Council Member Sullivan attended the event and publicly thanked the Department for their efforts and support they provide to the community.

## Sen. Mike Jackson and Ken Legler's Open New Office

State Senator Mike Jackson and State Representative Ken Legler held a ribbon cutting for the grand opening of their new joint office space located at 1109 Fairmont Parkway. Chambers of Commerce, the public and other elected officials attended the morning event.

Council Member Sullivan's staff presented both of them certificates wishing them much success.

## Council Approves Biodegradable Bags for City Collection

On September 2<sup>nd</sup>, Council approved (14 to 1) a revision to the Chapter 39 ordinance requiring residents to use "bio bags" for collection of their grass clippings and yard trimmings. Council Member Sullivan voted against this revision.

The Solid Waste Department will only pick up the yard waste in these new biodegradable bags that bears the City logo. They will be available in stores beginning January 1, 2010 and cost from \$6.99 to \$7.99 at most grocery retailers.

For a list of stores and for more information regarding the new requirements please visit [www.houstonsolidwaste.org](http://www.houstonsolidwaste.org).

## Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

The Planning and Development Department has implemented a new Neighborhood Matching Grant Program for neighborhood-based organizations that will help pay for physical improvements and projects that will help better the community.

Eligible organizations can receive a reimbursement of up to 50 percent (not to exceed \$3,000 dollars) based on the benefits a project has to the community, content and organization of the proposal, capacity of the applicant to implement the project and availability of funding.

For more information and to see if your organization qualifies, please visit [www.houstontx.gov/planning](http://www.houstontx.gov/planning).

City Hall Annex  
900 Bagby  
First Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

**Monica Aizpurua**, Chief of Staff  
**Karina Moreno**, District Outreach Coordinator  
**Autumn Jodzio**, North Sector Manager  
**Lauren Doak**, South Sector Manager

To add or remove yourself from our distribution list, please email [DistrictE@CityofHouston.net](mailto:DistrictE@CityofHouston.net).