



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

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Mayors Newsletter April 2018

Jersey Village and Harris County Pushing Ahead on Flood Mitigation

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

Spring is upon us and things are moving forward in our great community. Jersey Village City Government is tackling numerous big picture projects. As I have written about before, the long term flood recovery project for Jersey Village is at the top of the list. There are several important updates to this project. As a reminder, the City undertook a comprehensive engineering flood study to develop a mitigation strategy. The study concluded that in a 100 year rain event (1% chance in a year), 611 homes in JV were at risk of being flooded before the Harris County improvements to the detention ponds and JV bypass channel. After the improvements, 163 homes were currently at risk in a 100 year event. The study provided (4) primary objectives or recommendations:

- Working with Harris County to widen and deepen the White Oak Bayou channel in the city limits
- Creating a berm around the golf course to create additional water detention
- Increase drainage on Wall, Crawford and Capri Streets
- Non-structural improvements to 58 homes in the form of home elevations or buyouts that the City will pursue Federal grants to fund

The objective that will have the most impact is deepening and widening White Oak bayou. I am encouraged by the recent developments on that project. City officials recently attended the County Commissioners Court meeting to advocate for allowing Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) to begin negotiations to deepen and widen White Oak Bayou from Tidwell to FM1960, which includes Jersey Village. The Commissioners approved the plan. HCFCD will begin negotiations and have a contract brought to the Commissioners at a later date. Design work should take a year, and the construction work will take another year. HCFCD believes construction will begin in 2019. According to HCFCD, the plan is to widen the channel to 30 feet (at the base of the bayou) through Jersey Village, and the bypass channel to 20 feet. The City has been in contact with HCFCD about whether or not more land is required to widen the bayou. HCFCD has stated no further land is needed to widen the bayou through Jersey Village since the bypass has been constructed and is being widened as well. The City is working closely with HCFCD to ensure this project is completed.

There has been positive developments regarding home elevations as well. Our grant application is to elevate 18 homes in Jersey Village. Only \$90 million was allocated nationwide for these types of projects. Our total grant request was \$3,355,448, or nearly 4% of the total grant amount available. We have been informed that our project has been "identified for further review". Over the next two months they will be giving the project another look before formally awarding the funds, but in the meantime the state will be readying the contracts necessary with the City to issue the funds once it's approved. Within the next 3-6 months the first phase of the elevation project will begin to move forward.

Last month, City Council conducted a workshop with City Engineers to provide direction for a berm on the Jersey Meadow Golf Course. Council insisted that any berm design be effective, aesthetically pleasing, not redirect water to homes and not impede golf course playability. There was additional conversation about utilizing pumping apparatuses for increased drainage in the Wall, Crawford and Capri Street corridors. The workshop and subsequent discussions during the regular March meeting were productive and Council expects to approve a final berm design in the next few months with engineering and construction to begin shortly thereafter. The City is getting busier and busier so check the City website and tune into our live City Council broadcasts to stay updated.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor

Jersey Village, Texas