



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

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## Resident Notification Of Emergency Situations

When we have an emergency, we dial 911 and JV dispatch answers with assistance - what if the situation was reversed? Have you ever wondered how our Police or Fire Department would be able to instantly contact us in our homes, in case of a life threatening emergency?

Early in the morning on June 20, 2014, a HAZMAT incident occurred in the outbound lanes at 17000 Hwy 290 due to a collision between a cement truck and a tanker truck carrying CO2. If you were trying to commute on the freeway that day, you were painfully aware that the road was shut down for several hours during the cleanup. But what if the accident had involved more hazardous chemical requiring residents to shelter in-place - how would you be told?

The answer is that the city can communicate with residents using the Greater Harris County 9-1-1 Emergency Network, which is essentially a reverse 911 calling system. Public safety agencies, including our police and fire department, can decide to send an alert to residents in specific areas, during emergency situations such as:

- o Chemical spills
- o Gas leaks
- o Missing persons
- o Extreme life-threatening weather events
- o Dangerous persons

Calls are automatically placed to all landline phones in the area and to cell and internet phones that have signed up to be called. Voicemail and text messages are sent with instructions. **If you don't use a landline, or want to add your cell phone, you need to register those devices by:**

- o Login to the city website at <http://www.jerseyvillage.info/>
- o Scroll down and click on the red square in the lower left hand corner labeled "Sign Up For Free Emergency Alerts"
- o Follow the instructions for registering your devices - you may sign up to four cell or Internet phone numbers.

For the safety of you and your families, I hope you will consider enrolling your cell phones in this network. GHC 9-1-1 states they "will not share personal information except to allow agencies (police, fire department) to send you emergency alerts."

One comment on the 911 system; if you dial 911 within the city, your call is answered by JV dispatch. Emergency assistance is available to you quickly in our city. If you see something that doesn't look right, observe suspicious behavior, are accosted by strangers asking for assistance or money, feel threatened by a dog, or are in any other circumstance where your security is in question, please don't hesitate to call 911.

Until next month.

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