



Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us

June 2015 - Hello and the Great Rain of 2015

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

I want to begin my inaugural newsletter with a sincere "Thank-you" for entrusting me with the responsibility of wielding the gavel as the Mayor of our city. I look forward to spending the next two years working with our staff and City Council to address the needs of the city and our community. I will continue to support and promote fiscally responsible policies that strengthen our Police and Fire Departments and make Jersey Village a destination location for businesses and families.

I had intended my initial newsletter to be about my agenda for the future of the city, complete with witty anecdotes and inspiring vision. Recent events have usurped that plan and I feel they need to be addressed. Those events being the Great Rain of 2015.

Significant rain events are a special concern to Jersey Village residents. Many of us have been subjected to home flooding multiple times and are understandably anxious when local news crews don the waders and head to freeway overpasses to get the scoop on flooding. In previous years, significant rain events spelled doom for many homes in Jersey Village due to a combination of street flooding and overflowing bayous. Since those flooding events, a substantial amount of work has been performed on the bayou system, detention basins and bypass channel. In addition, the city has spent millions of dollars on street repairs to alleviate local street flooding. All of these efforts were to reduce the potential of flooding in the neighborhood.

I am pleased to report that, though stressed, those systems performed well and the City has not received any reports of home flooding. Jersey Village received approximately 5.5 inches of rain during a three-hour period. This was a significant test of the system, with everything working as designed. The White Oak Bayou high point was 95.38 feet by 11:30 pm on May 25. This is 3 feet below top of the bank with an additional foot of freeboard. The 43-acre basin appeared to be one-third full and the bypass channel was one-half capacity. The detention basins at Fallbrook and Ranchstone were not taking on water and did not receive White Oak Bayou water at any point during the event. In addition, streets that have historically flooded drained as designed, further reducing the potential of localized flooding.

A significant number of staff were on-site during the episode. The city's Emergency Operations Center was partially activated, with public safety and city management personnel on duty throughout the storm. The Police Department was doubled up and ready to bring additional personnel on board. A strong contingent of fire department volunteers was on standby. Several Public Works crews made the rounds cleaning out street drains, placing barricades, and ensuring the plants remained operational. Twelve Fire Department volunteers reported to the station for possible duty and I was in communication County Judge Emmet's office during the event.

Many residents in Houston and other communities didn't fare so well and I ask that we keep them in our thoughts and prayers. I am very appreciative and proud of the work performed by our City and others to address the flooding in Jersey Village and the peace of mind it brings.

All the Best,

Justin Ray, Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas

16327 Lakeview Drive Jersey Village, TX 77040
713-466-2102