



# Mayor's Monthly Newsletter

Written by Mayor Justin Ray

[jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us](mailto:jray@ci.jersey-village.tx.us)

Mayor's Newsletter September 2017

## Hurricane Harvey and Jersey Village

Hello Neighbors, Residents and Friends

This is my third Mayor's Newsletter after a major flooding event in our area. My first Newsletter as Mayor came on the heels of the Memorial Day 2015 flood. We all vividly remember the devastating effects of the Tax Day flood on our community the following year. This month, I will discuss how Jersey Village fared during Hurricane Harvey and the plans moving forward.

The Jersey Village Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated once it was determined Hurricane Harvey would have a significant impact on the Texas Gulf Coast and specifically the Harris County area. Throughout the event, City leaders and Staff were on-hand monitoring the storm's track, communicating with multiple agencies and coordinating emergency response activities. Our primary focus was monitoring White Oak Bayou levels and preparing for possible flood related emergencies. At times, the Harris County flood gauge data was unavailable and JVPD would be dispatched to visibly monitor the bayou levels. The City Manager's team ran a sound, efficient and professional EOC during a dangerous and severe weather event.

Jersey Village received over 30" of rain during the storm. That is a significant amount of rain on par with Tropical Storm Allison that flooded over 500 homes in Jersey Village. I am pleased to write that the City received no reports of home flooding during Hurricane Harvey from bayou flooding or street drainage. After Tropical Storm Allison, Harris County stepped up its WOB improvement projects resulting in additional detention basins and the JV bypass channel. Additionally, JV City leaders began aggressive street rehabilitation projects to improve street drainage. During Hurricane Harvey, the bypass channel and detention basins were observed taking on significant amounts of rain water as designed. Had those improvements not been implemented, WOB would have surely spilled its banks resulting in substantial home flooding in Jersey Village.

Though many of us in JV breathed a sigh of relief that does not mean continued flood mitigation should not be a top priority. The 2016 Tax Day flood reminds us that an event with concentrated rain in a short period can still overwhelm bayous and detention basins. During this last rain event, sheet flow off of the golf course was observed flowing down streets. The City must push forward with a golf course berm which will increase rain water detention and prevent sheet flow. The Wall, Capri and Crawford corridors must undergo street rehabilitation and drainage improvement. City Council has included much of these initiatives in next year's proposed budget. Additionally, the City will pursue grants for home elevations and/or buyouts this month.

I am extremely grateful for all the hard work our Staff, first responders and City leadership put into managing this dangerous weather event. Many people continue to suffer the aftereffects of this event and we should keep them in our thoughts and prayers during this trying time.

All the Best,

Justin Ray

Mayor, Jersey Village, Texas