



Mayor's Newsletter

September 2022

Mayor Bobby Warren - bwarren@jerseyvillagetx.com

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

In my last newsletter, I discussed the initial phase of the city's drought contingency plan. At that time, our city saw less than nine inches of rain in the five months between March and July. Our hopes for rain looked as bleak as some of our lawns. Obviously, the weather has changed significantly since then, with over eight inches of rain falling on Jersey Village during the month of August. The drought restrictions have been lifted and I'm sure you're joining me in looking forward to cooler temperatures as we head into fall in a few weeks.

As the old saying goes, there can be too much of a good thing. While we welcome the moderate amounts of rain we have seen lately, we're all too aware of what happens when too much rain comes down in a short period of time. Flood mitigation continues to be one of my top priorities. We recently learned that FEMA's budget for home elevation grants has been significantly expanded this year to \$800 million. In comparison, last year FEMA received grant applications for elevations totaling \$680 million but was only able to award \$160 million. This new funding presents an outstanding opportunity for Jersey Village to make additional progress on flood mitigation.

Some families are still in significant danger of flooding even with completion of flood mitigation projects in Jersey Village over the last several years. If your home has flooded in the past, do not assume that all is safe solely because of these projects. There is a reason they're called flood "mitigation" projects: they help, but they will not prevent all flooding. If you have been skeptical of the home elevation program in prior years or disheartened because your home was not selected for elevation in the past, I ask you to give home elevation another look.

If you have questions about the home elevation program or perhaps you simply want to find out whether your home is a good candidate for inclusion in a future city grant application, please reach out to our city manager, Austin Bleess, via e-mail at ableess@jerseyvillagetx.com.

The city has had tremendous success with the federal home elevation grant process since we completed our long-term flood mitigation study. In the 5 fiscal years our city has applied for grant funding, we have been successful in 3 of those years. In total, we have elevated 21 homes and we were just awarded additional grant funding to elevate 16 more homes, bringing to the total to 37.

While I am proud of our successes in this regard, there's still a lot of work left to further reduce the danger of flooding in Jersey Village.

Your neighbor,

Bobby Warren
Mayor