



CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE, TEXAS

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MAYOR'S NEWLETTER SEPTEMBER 2010

On July 1st Jersey Village experienced a substantial rain fall of more than five inches caused by Tropical Storm Alex. Most people did not recognize it as a significant event, however, since hard rains occur frequently in and around Houston. We have experienced similar or even harder rains at least once a year, especially during hurricane season. The significance of the event is that the water level in Jersey Village rose to such a height that the bypass channel was actually flowing water around Jersey Village.

For more than the sixteen years I've lived in Jersey Village, there has been a partially constructed ditch on the boundary of Jersey Village just north of Honolulu, Welwyn and Kevindale. Harris County Flood Control was digging the ditch years ago when they ran into several problems: a pipeline, financial problems and, lastly, changing priorities after Tropical Storm Allison. For these reasons the ditch served very little purpose as the HCFCD put their resources into solving flooding problems in other areas in Harris County.

We all remember Allison in 2001 when the water in White Oak Bayou (WOB) flooded about one-third of the homes in Jersey Village. Since that time I have been working with HCFCD to complete the ditch so it would actually alleviate flooding in the city. In more than 20 meetings with HCFCD, I have stressed the importance of having the bypass completed and, finally, that day has come.

The drainage system should work as follows: storm water runoff upstream from Jersey Village is channeled into WOB. (The bayou rises very quickly in even a moderate rain.) When the rising water reaches a certain height, it is diverted into detention basins along Jones Road. If the water continues to rise, the bypass channel will divert about one-third of the water that would normally stay in the channel going through Jersey Village and routes it around the city. This system should keep the water in the bayou and not in your homes.

We cannot say that this will prevent flooding ever again in Jersey Village. No one knows how much rain we will have in any given storm, but homes in our city should be less likely to experience flood waters again.

On another subject, the future mixed-use development at the intersection of Jones Road and Highway 290 needs a name. City Council is giving Jersey Village residents an opportunity to submit names for that development, and will discuss the names suggested during the October council meeting. Please go to the city's web site (www.jerseyvillage.info) for more information. Please send in your good ideas and you might have the honor of having your suggested name on that development in the future.

RULES FOR SUBMITTING ENTRIES TO FORMALLY NAME THE CITY OF JERSEY VILLAGE TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT

Background Information

In January of 2009 the City of Jersey Village began work with Consultants Kimley-Horn & Associates regarding a feasibility study for locating a transit oriented development (TOD) in the Jersey Village area. The site south of US Highway 290, proximate to the planned Jones Road extension held promise because, in addition to the extension of Jones Road, this site is also the location of an interchange with the future Hempstead Tollway. Additionally, the site contains large undeveloped parcels that could serve as potential rail stations for a commuter rail line. The study consisted of three phases, with the final phase set for completion in February 2011.

While it is true that there is certainly a significant combination of transportation modes at this one location that could serve to potentially develop Jersey Village into a destination location, City Council feels that naming this area “The City of Jersey Village Transit Oriented Development” may be too generic.

Therefore, the City Council of the City of Jersey Village is soliciting name suggestions from the public in order that this area of the City may be formally named once development begins.

The rules for submitting suggested names are as follows:

- 1) All submittals must be received by midnight on October 12, 2010.
- 2) Only email submittals will be accepted. Send emails to lcoody@ci.jersey-village.tx.us. Include “JVTOD Naming Submittal” in the subject of your email. Please include your full name and daytime contact information.
- 3) The list of names submitted will be presented to City Council during the October 18, 2010 Council meeting for review and possible selection.
- 4) There is no limit on the number of suggestions; however, each name suggested must be sent in a separate email.
- 5) The City of Jersey Village reserves the right to use any name submitted for any other project it may have in the future.
- 6) Employees of the City of Jersey Village may not participate.
- 7) Names submitted should be familiar to the majority of citizens, easy to recall, unique to the area being developed and lasting.
- 8) Submissions should consider:
 - a) The activity and function of the land; and
 - b) The physical characteristics of the area