

Lakes of Brightwater

HARVEY SPECIAL - 2017

BEACON

COMING EVENTS

HOA MONTHLY MEETINGS

Clubhouse, 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 17

Tuesday, November 7

NOTE: October meeting is a budget workshop held at Crest Management.

BRIGHTWATER GARDEN CLUB

Clubhouse, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, October 23

Monday, November 13

(second Monday due to Thanksgiving)

No meeting in December

EVENING

NEEDLEWORKERS

Members' homes, 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 6

Monday, December 4

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Parent and student volunteers interested in planning and helping with children's

Halloween and Holiday parties, contact

Diane at 281-499-0695 or dgiltner5@comcast.net.

Brightwater and Harvey

by Diane Mauricio

As those residents who remained home can attest, the rains of Harvey brought an extraordinary amount of water to the neighborhood. There were concerns about evacuation and questions regarding whether Brightwater would flood.

The lakes are our first line of defense for flooding and are, in fact, retention ponds. They, along with the detention area west of Brightwater, held a lot of water from Harvey. Rain gauges showed a historic rainfall amount of 36" from August 25-29 in Brightwater.

There were times when the lakes spilled over the bulkheads and some homeowners saw water levels creep into their yards. But the streets, a secondary line of defense for flooding, continued to drain and almost all of the homes in Brightwater were spared. For this, we can be very thankful.

Additionally, MUD #42's water plant was being constantly monitored and there were neither indications of problems nor threat of water being turned off (the latter was an unfounded rumor). The water plant and sanitary sewer system operated within their parameters.



Water levels in Oyster Creek and Frost Lake (the larger lake in Brightwater) were so high that the two bodies of water became one.

Alligators Visit Brightwater

Fishermen and adventurous youngsters, take note:

When the rains come, alligators show up in Brightwater exploring for food. They reach our community when the Brazos River backs up, and they gain access to Oyster Creek. When Oyster Creek has high water, the reptiles can swim or climb over our spillway and enter Frost Lake. Usually, they can't make it over the bulkheads into residents' back yards, but Harvey didn't present us with usual circumstances. They came, they saw, and they hung out with us until they returned to more fertile hunting grounds when the water receded.

In The Event Of A Future Storm

Needleworkers

The Brightwater Needleworkers Group began its 17th year when it met in September. Come meet our terrific members who share your enthusiasm for needlework. We meet in members' homes on the first Monday of the month from 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. Our handiwork includes knitting, crocheting, cross stitching, mending or anything that requires hand sewing. Call Elaine at 281-499-6660 for more information.

Tennis Courts

Reservations to use the Brightwater Tennis Courts can be made no more than 24 hours in advance. If this rule is not followed, you risk losing your time to play. Please, write legibly when making your reservations and when signing in.

The “Beacon”

The Lakes of Brightwater subdivision newsletter is published four times a year, in January, April, August and November.

Newsletter Advertising

Grow Your Business! Advertise in the Beacon. For advertising rates, please contact Prepared Publications at 281-652-5802, or via email at: info@preparedpublications.com

In the event of a future storm, residents can get information from the governmental entities listed below for news and announcements. :

Fort Bend County Emergency Management

<http://fbcoem.org>
www.facebook.com/fbcoem
281-342-6185

Provides timely news releases, videos, interactive maps, flood gauge links, and other helpful support information. The website allows residents to sign up for their Emergency Alert program to get time-sensitive messages by telephone, text messages, or email. Homeowners can also follow on Facebook and Twitter.



Missouri City Ready (Office of Emergency Management)

<http://www.missouricityready.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/MissouriCityTX>
281-403-5801

Takes the lead role in preparing the City to respond to all hazards through mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery activities of the City's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The office monitors and addresses Federal and State mandates related to emergency management while collaborating with local, regional and state partners. They also have a sign-up tool for receiving timely alerts.



Fort Bend Recovers

<http://fortbendrecovers.org/give-help/volunteer>



Finally, if you would like to volunteer to help others in Fort Bend County, check out Fort Bend Recovers. It is a collaborative network established and maintained on behalf of the individuals, families, businesses, and communities in Fort Bend County to facilitate and implement a coordinated response to disaster recovery needs.



A discouraged barrier lies on the sidewalk as water from Oyster Creek swallows trees on Missouri City's Edible Arbor Trail.



A Bradford pear tree in front of the Clubhouse split due to the heavy rain and weakness from rotten core.

Brightwater and Its Lakes

In 1962, the land which now includes the Lakes of Brightwater was part of 903 acres owned by J.M. Frost, Jr. The Frost property was bounded by Stafford-DeWalt Road on the east and Oyster Creek on the west; it stretched from about where Avenue E is located on the north side to Cartwright on the south. The lake was shown as one elongated area, rather than the horseshoe-shaped lake we have today. The smaller lake surrounding Brightwater Estates did not exist.

The Brightwater development began in the mid-1980s and the final two homes were constructed in 2002. There are 796 homes in the neighborhood and lots vary between 66 and 70 feet in elevation. Visit <https://www.daftlogic.com/sandbox-google-maps-find-altitude.htm> to check the elevation of an individual property.

Q: Who owns Brightwater's lakes?

A: Municipal Utility District #42 was created and organized in part for the purpose of controlling, storing, preserving and distributing the storm and flood waters of the District. The District purchased two reservoirs from Perry-Brightwater, Ltd., during the early construction phase of the neighborhood for use primarily to prevent flooding in the District. Through a lease agreement with the Brightwater HOA, it allows the lakes to be used for recreation purposes and has in place rules and regulations for that use. The big lake is 52 acres and the small lake is 15.8 acres in size and the average depth of both lakes is 3 to 3½ feet.

Q: How does the water flow into and out of our lakes?

A: Surface water is collected from all areas around Brightwater. Generally, water flow runs from American Legion Lake on Lexington, through the ditch along the east side of the neighborhood into the smaller of the two Brightwater lakes. An inter-connect north of Frost Lake Court, reconstructed in June, 2004, allows flow from the small lake to move into the large lake. Additionally, water from the storm drains on Brightwater streets flow into the lakes through underground pipes. From the large lake, water flows over the outfall located on Lakefront Drive into Oyster Creek. Oyster Creek eventually flows into the Brazos River, which ends at the Gulf of Mexico.

Q: Do Oyster Creek and the Brazos River connect?

A: Oyster Creek runs somewhat parallel to the Brazos. It begins north of Richmond and runs southeast through Brazoria County for approximately 52 miles toward the Gulf. The stream is intermittent in its upper reaches, and portions of the stream no longer follow their natural course. In Missouri City, the upper section has been partially channelized (Flat Bank Creek), ultimately connecting with the Brazos River via a short segment of Steep Bank Creek. The lower section continues on its meandering path from about a mile southeast of Steep Bank Creek, draining into the Intracoastal Waterway near Surfside Beach.

Q: Is Brightwater within a LID?

A: A Levee Improvement District (LID) is responsible for providing flood protection and storm water management services and is authorized to build levees, straighten channels, and provide drainage. There are no levees surrounding Brightwater, and therefore we do not fall within a LID. The detention area just south of Lexington Drive between Dulles and Brightwater is part of First Colony LID #1 and collects excess storm water runoff. A channel within this basin takes water into Oyster Creek.



LIDs in the Missouri City and Sugar Land region.

Q: What is the difference between a detention and a retention area?

A: The Brightwater lakes are retention ponds, meaning they always hold or retain water, but are designed to release water through an outfall channel when water levels rise. A detention area, like the one along Lexington, is built to accumulate excess storm water, then channel it out and return to a "dry" condition.

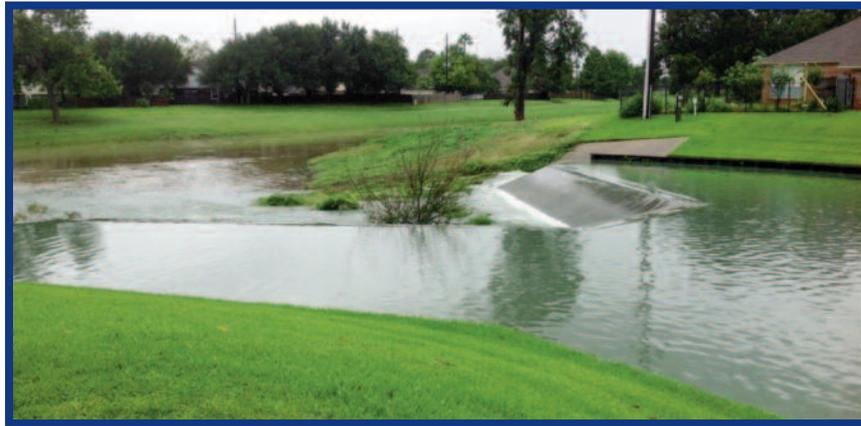


Detention area seen from Lexington Blvd. Lakes of Brightwater is in the background.

THE BRIGHTWATER BEACON

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Water eventually topped the spillway connecting Frost Lake to Oyster Creek



Oyster Creek menacing the Cartwright bridge.



Debris left behind after the water receded.

Special thanks to Allen Grant for the pictures featured in this issue.