

# Project to relieve flooding in Amelia

By Rachel Kersey *STAFF WRITER*



Rachel Kersey / The Enterprise

Ward II Councilmember Mike Getz stands at the site where Drainage District 6 will build a detention pond to mitigate flooding in the Amelia neighborhood.

The Amelia neighborhood is getting a new detention pond at the corner of Phelan and Todd St., right near the railroad.

“Amelia is prone to flooding and this will help resolve a lot of those issues,” said Ward II city councilmember Mike Getz. “We have been trying to find ways to get relief in the Amelia area for years.”

According to Getz, the project is urgent because flooding happens in the Amelia area during significant rainfall events. It is a concern specifically for Amelia because the neighborhood was not originally a part of the city of Beaumont and was incorporated in the mid-1900s, which left the city with several infrastructure upgrades to make over the years.

Placing detention ponds specifically has been a project of the last three decades.

“There were several different phases,” said Chief Engineer for Drainage District 6, Doug Canant. “I would say some of those were completed in the ’90s and some of them were completed in probably 2010 or so.”

Construction on the detention pond is expected to start in late spring or early summer. The roughly \$4 million project — 75% funded by FEMA’s Flood Mitigation Assistance program and 25% funded by the Texas Water Development board — should take approximately 18 months to complete.

DD6 has received the railroad permit and the land for the pond has been purchased. The sale was finalized in January 2021, and the trees on that land have been cut down and cleared away.

According to Canant, they are finishing up engineering, which is one of the last steps before construction. In the next three weeks, DD6 will take bids for construction and installation of the pipes that will carry water across the city.

This is a joint venture between DD6 and the city of Beaumont. It is an invasive project that will involve a lot more than placing a single pond. The city will be helping DD6 to relocate utility, water and sewer lines so that all the heavy pipes can be laid strategically throughout the grid.

“We’re gonna be boring underneath the train tracks and underneath the street, underneath Phelan, and putting culverts in there to carry water,” Getz said.

“We're redirecting basically 70 acres of runoff into a detention basin we're putting on that property,” Canant said.

The water will ultimately be redirected to Hillebrandt Bayou.

“We've been trying to do some things in Amelia since I've been elected,” Getz said. “So we're glad that Amelia is getting some care and some attention. This will help a lot of people who live out there.”

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