

# Blue**line**

**Harris County MUD 217 Edition**

*Spring* **2017**

## **Whats Inside:**

Meet Your Directors

Hurricane Preparedness

Board Election News

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Join Our Gym

Website & Phone Numbers



## **Your MUD Directors**



HARRIS COUNTY  
**MUD 217**  
★  
[www.hcmud217.com](http://www.hcmud217.com)

# Board of Directors



**CORDELIA Brown**  
*President*

Cordelia Brown was elected to the District in 2004 and is currently serving as the President. As such, she has maintained a steadfast interest in achieving total transparency. In addition to her current position, Cordelia has served as Vice President, Secretary, and Director.

As a 20-year District resident, a wife, and mother of five, she understands the importance of parks, playgrounds, and amenities. She is honored to have served on the board during not only the development of both the Heritage Village park and playground, but also for the planning and construction of the HCMUD 217 Administration Building.

Additionally, Cordelia has served as an HOA Director for 17 years. To further reflect her voice and passion for the community she has organized a partnership with the HOA and the District for planning multiple community events; Such as Annual Neighborhood Cleanup Day, National Night Out, Fun-Day in the Park, 4th of July Celebration, and Santa in Heritage Village. It is her desire to bring more of these activities to the District.

Cordelia stresses the importance of transparency and technology within the District which has lent itself to the design and launch of both HCMUD 217's new website and new quarterly newsletter. Cordelia is a native Houstonian, a member of New Light Christian Center Church, and holds an Associates of Science degree from Lone Star College.



**DEBRA Johnson**  
*Vice President*

Debra Johnson is the current Vice President of the Harris County MUD 217 Board of Directors. She was appointed to the Board in 2016. During her time as VP, Debra has participated in several District improvements and initiatives, and believes in keeping the Board informed and involved. Debra is proud of the Board's new community outreach initiative such as the launch of the new District website and newsletter publication. She is also passionate about bringing citizens of the District together through community events such as Veterans Day, 4th of July, Cookies with Santa, and the Easter Egg-extravaganza.

Debra holds both a bachelor's and master's degree in secondary education, as well as an Education Administration Certificate from the University of Houston. She began her teaching career at Lamar High School where she taught for 14 years and became an assistant principal. She has also since served as an assistant principal and principal in Conroe ISD and New Caney ISD until retirement in 2015.

Debra and her husband, Curtis, have lived in Heritage Village for 18 years and have two children and five grandchildren. Debra believes her years of professional experience in project planning and budgeting will serve to enhance the programs and services of the District.





**SONNIER Washington**  
*Secretary*

Sonnier Washington is the current Secretary of the Harris County MUD 217 Board of Directors. He has lived in the District for 10 years and for the past 6 has served on the Board of Directors. Sonnier became interested in serving on the Board as a way of serving the community and contributing to the future growth of the District. Sonnier brings practical, common sense solutions to addressing issues and formulating resolutions.

As a native Texan from East Texas, Sonnier has a deep rooted attraction to nature, parks, and recreational areas. Sonnier does his part by ensuring that the park areas are always safe, well maintained, and aesthetically groomed for the residents of the District to enjoy.

In his professional life, Sonnier has many years of experience in the financial sector. He has worked in retirement services and benefits administration, as well as working as a business and consumer banker for 6 years. It was his role as a business and consumer banker that earned him the "Best Banker" award in the 4th quarter of 2006, and which makes his skills especially beneficial for the District.



**MARIAN Henderson**  
*Asst. Secretary*

Marian Henderson is the current Assistant Secretary of the Harris County MUD 217 Board of Directors. She has been serving on the Board for over 20 years. Due to her professional background as a water district paralegal, she has a thorough understanding of water district business and is uniquely qualified to serve on the Board.

Marian has worked tirelessly as a member of the Board to bring about improvements for the District while keeping it fiscally responsible. In her professional life, Marian was exposed to many aspects of the MUD industry: meetings, preparing bond documents, working with financial advisors, monitoring district projects, conducting election seminars, and communicating with local and national government entities (Department of Justice, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, EPA, City of Houston Planning and Development, and State Attorney General's Office).

Marian was born and raised in Marshall, Texas and is a graduate of Texas A & M University - Commerce, f/k/a East Texas State University with a B.B.A. She also attended the University of Texas Health Science System and South Texas College of Law. Marian is currently semi-retired and works part-time consulting as an educator/coach for other water board directors.



**JERRY Ewing**  
*Asst. Secretary*

Jerry has served in multiple roles throughout the years, including both Vice President and Acting President.

Jerry's past professional experience in the world of utility services has been instrumental to his ability to operate effectively as a Director. It is this type of exposure and knowledge that give him a unique level of expertise when making decisions and establishing governance boundaries in his role as Director. His knowledge of water systems has allowed him to make and implement fiscally sound financial decisions while creating a better district for the community to enjoy.

Jerry is a native Houstonian and has resided in Heritage Village for over 18 years. He has attended Doolin Technical College, HCC, Lone Star College, and Texas A&M Extension Institute. Jerry's professional experience includes utility maintenance operator with the Water Department at the City of Houston; a manhole foreman at Municipal Service Water Department, and as an air conditioning technician in property management with Peebles Management Company. Today, Jerry is employed as a commercial truck driver.



# are you **HURRICANE** prepared?

**Hurricane season begins June 1. To be prepared for a hurricane, it is important to understand how hurricanes are categorized as well as to know what actions to take as they approach.**

When we refer to a Hurricane's category, it's helpful to know from where the categorization comes. The Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Wind Scale is a 1 to 5 rating based upon a hurricane's sustained wind speed. This scale is designed to estimate potential property damage. Hurricanes reaching category 3 and higher are considered major hurricanes because of their potential for significant loss of life and damage. Be aware, category 1 and 2 storms are still dangerous and you should still take preventative measures.

## Hurricane Categories

### 1 74-95 mph

Homes could have damage to roof and shingles. Large branches of trees will snap and shallowly rooted trees may topple. Extensive damage to power lines and poles can result in power outages.

### 2 96-110 mph

Homes may sustain major roof and siding damage. Shallowly rooted trees will be snapped or uprooted and block roads. Near-total power loss is expected with outages that could last weeks.

### 3 (major) 111-129 mph

Homes may incur major damage or removal of roof decking. Many trees will be snapped or uprooted, blocking numerous roads. Electricity and water may be unavailable for several days to weeks after the storm passes.



**4** (major) 130-156 mph  
Well-built homes can sustain severe damage with loss of most of the roof structure and/or some exterior walls. Most trees will be snapped or uprooted and power poles downed. Power outages may last weeks to possibly months. Most of the area will be uninhabitable for weeks or months.

**5** (major) 157 mph and higher— A high percentage of framed homes may be destroyed, with total roof failure, and wall collapse. Fallen trees and power poles may isolate residential areas. Power outages may last for possibly months.



**Hurricane Watch =**  
Conditions possible  
within 48 hrs.

**Hurricane Warning =**  
Conditions expected  
within 36 hrs.



**A Hurricane is 36 Hours from arriving:**

Build your emergency preparedness kit, include a flashlight, batteries, cash and first aid supplies.

Plan to communicate with family members if you lose power. Remember that during disasters, sending texts are usually reliable and faster than making phone calls because lines are often overloaded.

Keep your car in good working condition, and keep the gas tank full; stock your vehicle with emergency supplies and a change of clothes.



**A Hurricane is 18-36 Hours from arriving:**

Bring loose, lightweight objects inside that could become projectiles in high winds (e.g., patio furniture, garbage cans).

Anchor objects that would be unsafe to bring inside (e.g., propane tanks) and trim or remove trees close enough to fall on the building. Cover all your home's windows.

Permanent storm shutters offer the best protection for windows, or board up windows with  $\frac{5}{8}$ " exterior grade or marine plywood, cut to size, and ready for installation.



**A Hurricane is 6-18 Hours from arriving:**

Turn on your TV/Radio, or check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions for your area.

Charge your cell phone now so you will have a full battery in case of power loss.



**A Hurricane is 6 hours from arriving:**

If you're not in an area that is recommended for evacuation, plan to stay at home or where you are and let friends and family know where you are.

Stay away from windows. Flying glass from broken windows could injure you. Turn your refrigerator or freezer to the coldest setting and open only when necessary. If you lose power, food will last longer. Keep a thermometer in the refrigerator to be able to check the food temperature when the power is restored.

Turn on your TV/radio to check your city/county website every 30 minutes in order to get the latest weather updates and emergency instructions for your area.

Ready - <https://www.ready.gov/hurricanes>

For evacuation routes check TxDOT for an update evacuation map at:  
[www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html](http://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html)



## EARLY VOTING

April 24th - April 28th

May 1st - May 2nd

11:00am till 7:00pm

Administrative Building

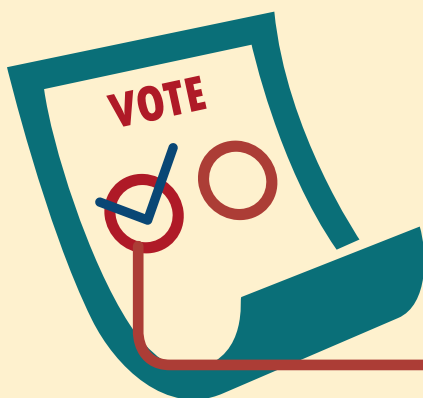
## ELECTION DAY

May 6, 2017

7:00am till 7:00pm

Administrative Building

12248 T. C. Jester Blvd.



### Directors Election Ballot Order

- |                         |                   |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Debra Johnson        | 4. Cordelia Brown |
| 2. Raphaelia Davis Fant | 5. Ray Jones      |
| 3. Sharon Taylor        | 6. Jerry Ewing    |





# Heritage Village Security

## **Safety Matters**

The Board of Directors for HCMUD 217 want you to know that they consider the security of their residents to be paramount. For that reason, the Board has decided to take over the security of Heritage Village, as well as paying all of the associated costs.

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The Board for HCMUD 217 is thrilled to announce that effective April, 17, 2017, security in Heritage Village will undergo some exciting new changes and the Sheriff's Department will now be handling the security of HCMUD 217. This is great news as you will soon begin seeing 2 exclusive sheriff deputies patrolling 7 days a week in our district.

For updates and information about this and other district related news, please visit our new HCMUD 217 website at:

**[www.harriscountymud217.com](http://www.harriscountymud217.com)**

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Have you ever wondered what a MUD is and what it does? At Harris County MUD 217, we would like to shed some light on exactly who we are and what we do!

# What is a MUD?

## MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICTS ARE...

A Municipal Utility District (MUD) is a special governmental entity that is primarily found in 3 states, Texas, Florida, and Colorado. In our state, MUDs are overseen by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and are formed as a tool to finance necessary construction and maintenance of water, sewer and storm drainage infrastructure within its boundaries. Today in Harris County alone, there are over 400 separate Municipal Utility Districts.

## HOW IT WORKS

A MUD is governed by a board of 5 directors. All directors are public officials elected by the residents within the District and serve alternating 4 year terms. It is not uncommon for a director to serve consecutive terms as they are not term-limited. The directors generally meet once per month to manage and conduct the business of the District and these meetings are always open to the public, per Texas law. In lieu of a full time staff, a MUD will typically contract with consultants such as attorneys, engineers, bookkeepers, operators, and financial advisors to both guide and deliver the District's operations and services.

## MUD SERVICES

A MUD provides water, sewer, and drainage infrastructure improvements for properties within its boundaries. In addition to those services, MUDs may also provide funds for public safety, garbage/recycling collection and disposal, roads, and recreational facilities to the communities within its boundaries. Additionally, a MUD may also levy taxes and issue bonds for maintenance and operations, infrastructure improvements (such as new water plants, sewer and treatment plants) and in some cases recreational amenities.





# SPRING INTO SUMMER

## JOIN OUR GYM!

**Summer is just a few months away. Did you know that Heritage Village has a gym conveniently located in the HCMUD 217 Administration Building? Did you know that it is open 5AM till midnight?**

At HCMUD 217, we understand that getting to the gym is often time consuming and difficult, so we designed a gym that is not only close to home, but also filled with amenities and equipment that can help you reach your personal fitness goals. It features modern cable weight resistant machines, free weights, several cardiovascular machines and even a television to watch as you burn those unwanted calories. In addition, we also have large mirrors, a water fountain and separate men's and women's changing rooms.

At the low rate of \$60.00 a year (pro-rated) for a membership, you can join in May and pay only \$40.00 for the rest of the year. That's 8 months of gym access at an average of only \$5.00 per month!

### Amenities include:

- Air Conditioning
- Separate men's and women's changing/restrooms
- Cable Television
- 1 Multi-Universal Cable Weight Machine System
  - 1 Overhead Cable Machine
  - 4 Electronic Treadmills
- 2 Electronic Elliptical Machines
- Free-Weight Dumbbells
- Flat Bench
- Water Fountain
- Members only key card access



So now that you know a little bit more about this amazing facility, we want to hear from you. As the residents and property owners of HCMUD 217, we truly value your feedback and opinions. For this reason, we invite and encourage you to go to our new website and fill out our quick, 5 question survey about gym memberships.

[WWW.HCMUD217.COM](http://WWW.HCMUD217.COM)



# NEW WEBSITE

At HCMUD 217, communication is important and we want our residents to be “in the know” at all times. This website was designed to be a constant source of information and to provide our residents with a place to stay connected and informed. In March of this year, we launched our new website with many new and improved features. This is truly your go-to website for information. Some of these features include:

## FEATURES:

- Meet your Board Members
- View District Announcements
- Pay your Water Bill
- View Meeting Documents
- Get District Information
- View the HCMUD 217 Newsletter
- Get a Membership at our Fitness Facility
- Reserve the Banquet Room
- View Posted Emergency Alerts
- Schedule a Meeting in our Conference Room

We are constantly looking for ways to broaden our reach to residents. With our new website, we can keep the community up-to-date with current events, changes, and important data. We invite and encourage you to visit our new website today!

## HCMUD217.COM



# Numbers to Know

## **FOR EMERGENCY:**

Sheriff's Department, Fire, Ambulance

**911**

## **Harris County Sheriff's Office**

Non-Emergency

**713-221-6000**

## **Hospitals**

Texas Children's Hospital, The Center for Children and Women

**832-828-1005**

Houston Northwest Medical Center

**281-440-1000**

Kindred Hospital Spring

**832-249-2700**

Memorial Hermann Northeast Medical Center

**281-540-7000**

Cypress Creek Hospital

**281-586-7600**

IntraCare North Hospital

**281-893-7200**

Houston Methodist Willowbrook Hospital

**281-737-1000**

The Woman's Place Willowbrook

**281-890-1182**

CHI St. Luke's Health - The Vintage Hospital

**832-534-5000**

Poison Control Center

**800-222-1222**

Texas Department of Family & Protective Services - CPS

**281-847-7000**

## **Utilities and Service Numbers**

Water Wastewater Management Services (Water/Sewer)

**281-895-8547**

WCA Waste Corporation (Trash)

**281-368-8397**

AT&T Telephone Company (Billing/Repair/U-Verse)

**800-288-2020**

Comcast (Billing & Service)

**800-266-2278**

## **Post Office**

USPS

**281-875-6452**

## **Energy Companies:**

Centerpoint Energy (electric)

**800-332-7143**

Centerpoint Energy (gas)

**713-659-2111**

Underground Digging (Gas, Electric, Phone)

**811 or 713-432-0365**

## **Miscellaneous**

Animal Control

**281-342-1512**

Texas Parks & Wildlife

**281-931-6471**

DMV

**281-449-2685**

Harris County Flood Control

**713-684-4130**

Harris County MUD 217 Administration Building

**832-249-7000**



PRSRT STD  
ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM Retail

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSEDDM\*\*\*\*  
Local  
Postal Customer