

Blue**line**

Spring | 2019

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HARRIS COUNTY
MUD 217
★



District Improvements

New Lighting Installed at Heritage Park

We hope that everyone takes advantage of the walking trails and playground at Heritage Park. It's a great place to exercise and greet your neighbors!

Security enhancements are well underway at Heritage Park. Most recently, the Board of Directors approved the installation of a new L.E.D. security lighting package that includes 12 new lights and 4 new poles that provide increased lighting throughout the park.

In addition to the lighting, the Board moved the large sign in the park to another area to provide more visibility. Our landscapers also removed several dead trees from the grounds.

Outside of Heritage Park, your Directors have been focusing their efforts on making some improvements at the Administrative Building grounds. Some of the improvements include a new sidewalk that extends to the back of the building and landscaping needs such as new mulch, tree pruning and seasonal flowers.



Directors Washington & Ewing

District Security in HCMUD 217

Neighborhoods with residents that look out for each other often see a reduction in crime rates. Our District has contracted with Deputies of the Harris County Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies to provide additional security in the neighborhood. According to Sgt. Jeff McGowan, residents should "Stay Alert, Be Proactive and Watch for Suspicious Behavior."

Sergeant McGowen shared some tips to protect your home, family and vehicles:

- Always lock your doors and windows for your house
- Ensure adequate lighting around your house
- Be creative with placement of your front door key (not under the mat, under the potted plant or above the door)
- Keep garage doors closed
- Always lock car doors
- Take any valuables out of your car or store them in your trunk
- Consider an alarm or camera security system

If there is a street light out, residents should advise the MUD by emailing:
contact@hcmud217.com

Sgt. McGowan and our officers would also like to remind residents to be aware of traffic laws in the neighborhood. With warmer weather on the way, more children will be playing outside. Drivers should fully STOP at stop signs and obey the posted speed limits throughout the district.



Neighborhood Amenities

at your Administration Building



Banquet Room

Your Board of Directors is so pleased with the completion of its remodeled administration building banquet room. You will love the newly installed engineered hardwood floors, modern appliances and quartz kitchen counters/serving bar. A new large screen TV has also been mounted for guests to use during parties, banquets, or conferences. For events that require outside access, your guests can access the covered patio and garden area via adjacent French door openings.

Along with its beautiful modern décor, the banquet room has available long banquet tables, large round tables (seating for 8), and several square tables (seating for 4), as well as linens and coverings. The banquet room is sure to be the perfect venue for your next event.



Conference

The conference room comes with a standard meeting room setup, large executive style chairs, stately conference tables and the option for additional chairs to be added upon request.

Also featuring a full service kitchen, you can make an effective presentation with all of the common amenities of a normal office environment with our included technology and A/V equipment.



Fitness Center

Join our gym! Summer is just around the corner, and the Fitness Center is a comfortable air conditioned space where you can reach your physical fitness goals. The gym is conveniently located in the HCMUD 217 Admin Building. This space features modern cable weight resistant machines, free-weights and several cardiovascular type machines.

Membership is only \$60/year (prorated), and is open from 5 am until midnight.

Feel free to stop by the Admin Building anytime to take a look for yourself. Otherwise, if you are ready to begin scheduling your event, please complete the online reservation request form on our website: hcmud217.com/amenities

We need your input - Take our survey!

The Board of Directors need your feedback to improve our gym! Please vote on our website: <http://hcmud217.com/news/77>



Leash Law

Tips for Identifying a Stray or Lost Animal

- Severly underweight
- Matted/Dirty fur
- Extreme shyness
- Even if it has a collar, the pet may be lost.
- An approachable animal is more likely lost than stray



The District takes great strides to ensure the safety and security of its residents. One of those measures is adhering to the Harris County Leash Law. Within the District, we often notice several lost dogs and cats running around our neighborhood without a leash.

We encourage our residents to report stray dogs/cats to Animal Control at 281-999-3191.

The Leash Law was enacted to help ensure the safety of children and passersby. Harris County Animal Control states that "all dogs and cats must be kept under restraint while in the unincorporated areas of Harris County, Texas." This means that dogs and cats are not allowed to roam freely and must be kept under direct control (on a leash) by their owner. **Our pets are beloved, but we are all required, by law, to have them on a leash.**

If you'd like to give your pet more space for activities, there are two dog parks located nearby:

Meyer Dog Park: www.hcp4.net/parks/meyer/dogpark/

Bibi and Mini-Me Bush Dog Park: www.hcp4.net/parks/pundt/dogpark/

For more information:

Publichealth.harriscountytexas.gov/Resources/Animals-and-Pets/AnimalLaws

Board of Directors



SONNIER Washington
President
May 2019–May 2023

Sonnier is the current President of the HCMUD 217 Board of Directors. He has lived in the District for 12 years and has served on the Board for the last 8 years. Sonnier became interested in serving on the board as a way of serving the community and contributing to the future growth of the District. He is dedicated to enhancing the beauty of the neighborhood by ensuring that Heritage Park and the Administration Building grounds are safe, well-maintained and aesthetically landscaped for the residents of the District to enjoy.



DEBRA Johnson
Vice President
May 2017–May 2021

Debra is Vice-President and the newest member of the Board. She took office in 2016, but she and her husband, Curtis, have been residents of Heritage Village for 20 years. During her time with the MUD, she has been involved in addressing interior improvements at the Administration Building, increasing communication with residents through District newsletters, website improvements, and assisting in planning the District's community outreach events.



CORDELIA Brown
Secretary
May 2017–May 2021

Cordelia was elected to the Board in 2004, and in addition to her current position as secretary, she has served as president, vice president, and director. Cordelia and her husband, Jessie, are the parents of five and are 22 year residents of the district. Cordelia is devoted to community service and is often at the forefront of organizing district events, such as Cookies with Santa, Easter Event, National Night Out, and July 4th Celebration. She also plays a key role in the organization of the annual Community Clean Up Day.



JERRY Ewing
Asst. Secretary
May 2017–May 2021

Jerry is the Asst. Secretary and has served on the Board for many years. He and his wife, Vivian, have been residents of Heritage Village for 24 years. Jerry's priority as a Board member is improving the safety and security of the District. His current focus is on children's safety to get sidewalks installed along Walters and Rankin Road. Jerry is also devoted to the upkeep of the parks and Admin Building grounds, and expanding health conscience events for our adults and seniors.



MARIAN Henderson
Director
May 2019–May 2023

Marian has served as a Director for over 23 years and is currently the liaison to the District's Engineer. Marian became interested in serving on the Board in 1996 to bring change within the community. Her background as a water district paralegal brings experience to help maintain financial integrity for the District and residents. Though retired, she stays up-to-date on all laws, regulations and policy changes affecting the water district industry. Marian is a passionate advocate for the health, safety, and overall quality of life for the District's residents.



Mark Your Calendars!

HARRIS COUNTY
MUD 217

Community Events

Each year, Harris Co. MUD 217 hosts several community events for the residents. Please mark your calendar and join us for a great way to meet and greet with your neighbors and Directors, and also enjoy games, food, entertainment, photos and family activities.

Watch for upcoming events and news to be announced on the website (www.hcmud217.com) and on the district marquee sign. As always, we look forward to seeing you!

Easter Egg-stravaganza

April 13th

Easter Egg Hunt!



Annual Cleanup Day

May 4th

9AM - 1PM

Your chance to dispose of heavy trash, old electronics or shredding
Located at the Administrative Building



4th of July Celebration

June 29th



National Night Out 2019

Oct. 1, 2019

Cookies & Crafts

with Santa

December 2019



Are you

HURRICANE PREPARED?

Just one storm can transform your life and community.

When Hurricane Harvey made landfall in 2017 between Port Aransas and Port O'Connor, Texas, it was a Category 4 storm with winds up to 130 MPH. Harvey was one of the most destructive hurricanes to ever hit Texas causing nearly 1 billion dollars in damages.

This storm was a sobering reminder of how a little preparation can go a long way. The time to prepare for a hurricane is before a storm enters the gulf, when you have the time and are not under pressure. Take the time now to write down your hurricane plan.

1. Determine Your Risk

Flooding is the primary concern for inland Houston, and it's not always a result of immediate rainfall. Some areas can flood down river as waters move toward the gulf. In order to be safe, you must stay vigilant during the storm by remaining informed of current news and storm status.

2. Develop an Evacuation Plan

Most evacuation routes for Houston involve heading West with contraflow routes opening up along I-10 West and 290 towards Austin. TxDOT keeps an updated evacuation map at www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/division/traffic/safety/weather/hurricane.html. Be prepared to evacuate quickly as rising waters can become dangerous in a very short time. Pack a bag at the onset of the storm, include all important papers, cash, IDs, medicines, at least two changes for clothes and essential items.

3. Do you have Flood Insurance?

Call your insurance company and insure you have enough homeowners insurance to repair or even replace your home, car, or boat. Remember, standard homeowners insurance **does not** cover flooding although many areas of Houston have it as a requirement!

4. Assemble Disaster Supplies

Hurricanes are unpredictable, so if you do not have time to evacuate, it is important to have a disaster kit ready. You should have enough non-perishable food, water, and medicine to last each person in your family at least one week. Gas up vehicles when a storm enters the gulf, and try to keep vehicles full until the storm has passed. Waiting for the last minute to gas vehicles can be costly as many stations run out of gas as the storm approaches. If you have a gas powered generator, store gas tanks in a safe place away from children and pets. (See guide link below.)

5. Strengthen Your Home

Have the proper plywood, steel, or aluminum panels to board up your windows and doors. Remember the garage door is the most vulnerable part of your home.

6. Identify Trusted Sources of Information

NOAA's National Hurricane Center and Central Pacific Hurricane Center are your official sources for hurricane forecasts and the issuance of hurricane watches and warnings. The Houston Chronicle or your favorite local newscast should always have up-to-date information as well.



**For Your
Emergency
Kit Guide**

www.ready.gov/build-a-kit

Tips for Safe Generator Use:

[www.energy.gov/ceser/emergency-preparedness/
community-guidelines-energy-emergencies/
using-backup-generators](http://www.energy.gov/ceser/emergency-preparedness/community-guidelines-energy-emergencies/using-backup-generators)

**Hurricane Watch =
Conditions possible within 48 hours**

- Review your evacuation route(s) and listen to local officials
- Review your disaster supply kit; add items to meet the needs for family members and pets

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

- Follow evacuation orders from local officials (if any are given)
- Check-in with family and friends by texting or using social media
- Follow the hurricane timeline preparedness checklist.

SAVING WATER



In the next 30-50 years there will be an increase in population in Houston and its surrounding areas. Research on the projected population growth against the available drinking water, also known as potable water supply, shows that while the population continues to rise, our water supply does not. An increase in conservation is severely needed. There are many ways to conserve water that are easy and ultimately cost effective.

A typical household uses approximately 260 gallons of water every day. We can reduce this amount by using a few simple steps towards water conservation.

- Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth, shaving, washing your hands, or rinsing dishes or vegetables. Each minute you have the faucet off saves at least 3 gallons.
- Wash only full loads in both the dishwasher and washing machine, or set the water levels to accommodate smaller loads.
- Gardening/Select plants that are native to the Texas region and plants that have the ability to thrive on little to no supplemental irrigation throughout the year. A great resource is the Native Plant Society of Texas: [NPSOT.org/wp/resources/wildscaping/](https://npsot.org/wp/resources/wildscaping/)
- Installing low-flow high efficiency shower heads, faucets and toilets in your home, as they use significantly less water.
- Irrigation system. Have your system inspected to ensure it is operating correctly, identify any problems and set it to run more efficiently.

THINGS TO REPORT:

Reporting leaks and water/wastewater issues within the District to help maintain our infrastructure and ensure future problems are fixed faster.

Leaking or standing water or sewage

Discolored water

Low pressure or water line vacuum

Sunken or elevated manhole covers

Flooding or poor storm drainage

Strong odors from sewer or water

Sewage backup

A Little Goes a Long Way

The potable water supply on Earth is finite.

With that being said, we have many tools we can use to extend and replenish the life of our water supply. It is our responsibility just as much as the next generation's to do everything that we can to conserve; not just for yourself, but for your children as well. HC MUD 217 is only requesting that you be mindful of the water you are using and where it is going, for that alone could save countless gallons within the district.



For nonemergency water & sewer problems report it on our website: hcmud217.com/contact-us or call Water Wastewater Management: 281-895-8547

NUMBERS TO KNOW



SITUATION:

Emergency (Life Threatening, Eminent Danger)
Report a Criminal Act
File a Complaint (nuisances & other misdemeanors)
Report Suspicious Persons or Activity
Water or Sewer Issues (WWWMS)
Garbage Service (WCA)
Heritage Park Items (MUD217)
MUD Admin Bldg Events
Loose or Stray Animals (HC Animal Control)

Number:

911
911
713-221-6000
mud217sec@gmail.com
281-895-8547
281-368-8397
832-249-7000
832-249-7000
281-999-3191

For any other questions or comments regarding the MUD and its functions, please visit our website or email us at contact@hcmud217.com

We recommend at least two people per household sign up to receive resident alerts. If at any time you want to opt out of the alert system, simply reply "stop" to be removed from the system.

***Text YES to (832) 610-2511 or visit
www.hcmud217.com/alerts for Resident Alerts***