

# Blue**line**

*Spring* | 2021

## This Issue:

Community Events

Election Information &  
Sample Ballot

Who to Ask?

Property Tax Reductions  
& Smart Meters

Hurricane Preparedness  
& Security Corner

New Website Design

Numbers to know

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



**Winter Holiday Food  
Distribution - December 2020**



***H**arris Co. MUD 217 hosted three socially distanced food distribution events in 2020 and 2021. We would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all the residents of Heritage Village, neighboring subdivisions, family and friends who volunteered to help us make these events happen. We hope you enjoyed them as much as we have.*

During the pandemic, the Board saw a need to help the residents of Heritage Village and surrounding area. Harris County MUD 217 partnered with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee and the Houston Food Bank to host several drive-thru food distribution events. These events provided perishable and non-perishable food to a grand total of over 1200 area households.

Check our website for photos of these and other events! Your Board of Directors is continuing to work for you!

**Spring Drive Thru Food  
Distribution - March 2021**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

***Bi-annual Cleanup Day  
May 29th, 2021 from  
9AM-2PM***

The Bi-annual cleanup day is a highly popular event. Residents can use this day to get rid of extra household clutter, old paperwork, and unwanted electronics. Dumpsters, a shredding truck and an electronics recycling truck will be on site. As the event date gets closer, check the website for more details!

# Harris County MUD 217

## Director Election

### Information & Sample Ballot



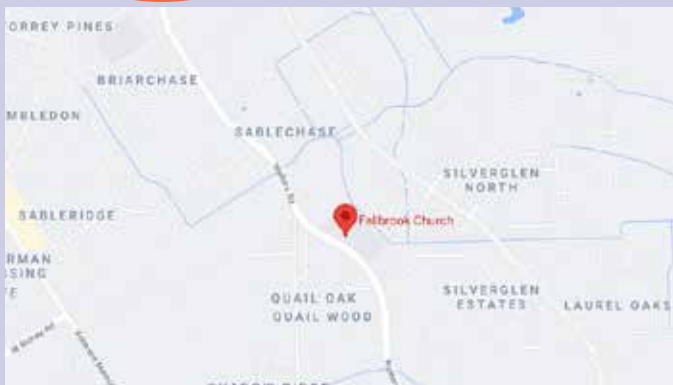
Director, Harris County MUD 217 -  
**Select up to 3**

- ☐ **1 - Jerry Lynn Ewing**
- ☐ **2 - Debra Nolan Johnson**
- ☐ **3 - Cordelia Janet Brown**
- ☐ **4 - Sharon Jones Taylor**
- ☐ **5 - Warren Orson Johnson**

For more information on voting  
and the Director's Election please  
visit the District's website:

[www.hcmud217.com](http://www.hcmud217.com)

Joint Election May 1, 2021 Harris County, Texas Elección Conjunta 1 de Mayo de 2021 Condado Harris, Texas		<b>SAMPLE BALLOT</b> <b>BOLETA DE MUESTRA</b>		Page 5 of 6 Página 5 de 6
<b>HC MUD 217, Directors</b> <i>HC MUD 217, Directores</i> <i>Vote for none, one, two, or three</i> <i>Vote por ninguno, uno, dos o tres</i>	<b>NW HC MUD 005, PROPOSITION C</b> <i>NW HC MUD 005, PROPOSICIÓN C</i> THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS IN THE MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF SIXTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$60,000,000) FOR REFUNDING ANY BONDS OR ROUNDDING BONDS AND THE LEVY ON AD VALOREM TAXES SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST ON SAID BONDS	<b>Harris County Utility District No. 6, Bond Election</b> <i>Distrito De Servicios Públicos Nro. 6 Del Condado De Harris, Elección de Bonos</i> <b>HC UD 6, PROPOSITION A</b> <i>HC UD 6 PROPOSICIÓN A</i> THE ISSUANCE OF \$5,595,000 BONDS FOR WATER AND SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS AND THE LEVY OF TAXES, WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO RATE OR AMOUNT, SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS	<b>HC UD 6, PROPOSITION C</b> <i>HC UD 6 PROPOSICIÓN C</i> THE ISSUANCE OF \$7,060,000 BONDS FOR DRAINAGE AND STORM SEWER SYSTEM AND THE LEVY OF TAXES, WITHOUT LIMIT AS TO RATE OR AMOUNT, SUFFICIENT TO PAY THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE BONDS	17210 v4 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Jerry Lynn Ewing <input type="checkbox"/> Debra Nolan Johnson <input type="checkbox"/> Cordelia Janet Brown <input type="checkbox"/> Sharon Jones Taylor <input type="checkbox"/> Warren Orson Johnson	LA EMISIÓN DE BONOS POR LA CANTIDAD MÁXIMA DE SESENTA MILLONES DE DÓLARES (\$60,000,000) PARA REEMBOLSAR CUALQUIER BONO O BONO DE REEMBOLSO Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE IMPUESTOS AD VALOREM SUFICIENTES PARA PAGAR	LA EMISIÓN DE \$5,595,000 EN BONOS PARA EL SISTEMA DE ALCANTARILLADO DE DRENAJE Y AGUA DE TORMENTA, Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE IMPUESTOS, SIN LÍMITE EN CUANTO A TASA O CANTIDAD, SUFICIENTES PARA PAGAR EL CAPITAL Y EL INTERÉS DE LOS	LA EMISIÓN DE \$7,060,000 EN BONOS PARA EL SISTEMA DE ALCANTARILLADO DE DRENAJE Y AGUA DE TORMENTA, Y LA IMPOSICIÓN DE IMPUESTOS, SIN LÍMITE EN CUANTO A TASA O CANTIDAD, SUFICIENTES PARA PAGAR EL CAPITAL Y EL INTERÉS DE LOS	



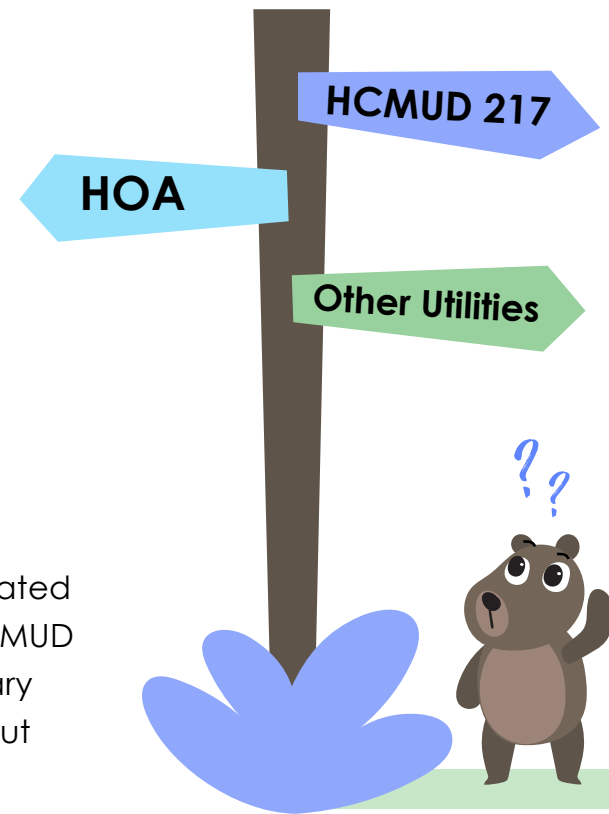
**ELECTION DAY IS SATURDAY,**  
**MAY 1, 2021**

**FALLBROOK CHURCH**  
**12512 WALTERS ROAD**  
**HOUSTON, TX 77014**

# Who to ask?

*When you see an issue or have a question do you know who to ask?  
The MUD? The HOA? Other Utilities?*

Each entity has a different set of powers, functions and responsibilities. While the HOA is a private association created to manage a neighborhood and help enforce its rules, a MUD is a political subdivision created by the State. MUDs primary responsibilities are to provide water and sewer services, but they can also offer other services like garbage, recycling, security, and recreational amenities.



**However, not all issues within the District are the responsibility of the MUD. Please review the list below to assist whom to contact.**

## **Harris County MUD 217**

- Heritage Park Detention
- Water / Sewage
- Trash Service
- Additional Private Security
- Community Events
- Administrative Building Rental
- Gym

## **Law Enforcement Services**

- Harris County Pct. 4 Constable's Office
- Harris County Sheriff's Office
- Emergency & Non-Emergency

## **Heritage Village HOA**

- Annual Assessment Fees
- Pool Oversight (tags, lifeguard, maintenance)
- Swords Creek Playground
- Deed Restrictions and Violations

## **Centerpoint Energy**

- Streetlights

## **Harris County Precinct 4 Commissioner Jack Cagle**

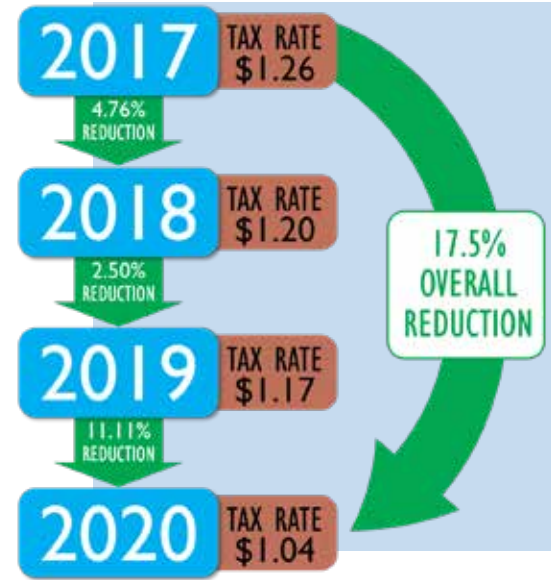
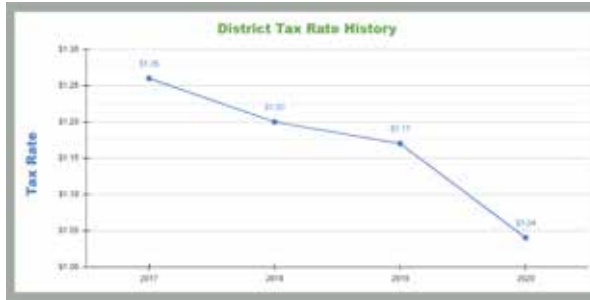
- Roads
- Street Signs
- Sidewalks
- Bridges



# Property Tax Reductions

## HC MUD 217 Brings Tax Rate Reductions to District Residents

The Board of Harris County MUD 217 is committed to reducing property taxes for District residents. In keeping with that commitment, the Board has supported property tax reductions each of the past four years to save resident dollars and offset rising appraised property values. This includes a reduction of more than 11% (\$0.13) from 2019 to 2020. This equates to a savings of \$195 per year on a \$150,000 home.



# Smart Meters



Harris County MUD 217 has recently approved an initiative to convert the District to smart meters, partnering with Water WasteWater Management Services and Accurate Meter to bring these devices to the district. Smart meters and related technologies are a great tool for water conservation, and greatly improve our water system's operational efficiency.

**Residents do not need to take any action!** Soon, the District's Operator will notify residents and install the new smart meters for all homes. The District's goal is to reduce water loss due to leaks, improve visibility of water usage trends, and accelerate reporting and handling of problems.

### Benefits to Resident

- Website & Mobile apps to view your usage and more
- Proactive water conservation
- Access to your water usage data (daily, weekly or monthly)
- Track and trend water usage
- Set up warnings/alerts (high usage, continuous usage or leaks)

### Benefits to the District

- Reduce operational costs by eliminating the need to manually read meters and reduce billing errors
- Provide greater accuracy
- Provide better services to customers
- Quicker response to inquiries
- Proactive approach to leaks & outages
- Usage history
- Access & Transparency

**Check the District's Website for Updates!**



# Hurricane Prep 2021

*Even though we just came through a historic freeze, hurricane season is just around the corner. Gulf Coast residents are no strangers to devastating hurricanes and we know how to prepare.*

## 1. - Make a Plan

Create a written evacuation plan complete with a list of important phone numbers and at least two evacuation routes in case you must leave. Make sure you keep your gas tanks FULL in case you get stuck in heavy traffic.

## 2. - Gather Disaster Supplies

Have a disaster kit ready. A good rule of thumb is to have enough non-perishable food, water, medicine, and masks to last each person in your family at least one week. Here again, it is vital to keep your vehicles full of gas, even if you can no longer evacuate.

## 3. - Review your Documents

Check your insurance policy and renew your flood insurance. Most flood insurance policies take at least 30 days to become effective. Don't get caught without the coverage you need!

## 4. - Stay Informed

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.

**For more Hurricane Safety Information, visit [www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness](http://www.weather.gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness)**

## SECURITY CORNER



Your Board of Directors for Harris County MUD 217 takes the safety of our residents and their families very seriously. Since 2017, your Board has provided funding for the additional security patrols within Heritage Village. This "extra" security patrol for our community is provided in addition to traditional law enforcement services provided by Harris County Sheriff/Constable Office.

*While this additional patrol service helps keep the community safer, Residents should ALWAYS call 9-1-1 immediately for **EMERGENCIES** on ACTIVE crimes.*

For NON-EMERGENCY issues, please call (713) 221-6000.

Examples of non-emergencies to report would be:

- Suspicious vehicles
- Suspicious activity (which may become an active crime)
- Crimes not in progress
- Vandalism not in progress
- Noise complaint
- Welfare checks

Examples of ACTIVE crimes would be:

- Assault
- Theft
- Burglary
- Property Vandalism

This additional security patrols the Heritage Village community and park looking for unusual activity, suspicious persons and vehicles, open doors, broken windows, and does not follow a set schedule or set pattern in the neighborhood and these deputies operate in vehicles that may be both marked and unmarked.

Heritage Village residents may contact the Lead Deputy Sgt. Jeff McGowen at his email address: [mud217sec@gmail.com](mailto:mud217sec@gmail.com)

# *Are you registered for* **EMERGENCY ALERTS?**

HCMUD 217's Emergency Alert system is an instant alert system to quickly notify our residents during unusual water/sewer conditions as well as keeping you informed about District works. We may also use this system to provide notices of important events and construction projects in the area.

*During the recent winter freeze, Harris County MUD 217 was able to quickly communicate very important water related information with our residents during a time of crisis. Being able to communicate with our residents is very important to us. We strongly encourage all residents to sign up for this service, if you are not already registered!*

While the District does its utmost to maintain the superior integrity of our water supply and wastewater infrastructure, some inevitable circumstances such as inclement weather and flooding may arise that residents should be informed about.

This free system allows the District to keep you informed as quickly as possible. The District cannot guarantee that it will be able to provide these notices in every instance. Opt-in to this free service to receive an email and/or text message notice(s) with information and guidance.

*Hurricane season is approaching, sign up for alerts today!*

**Register for Emergency Alerts today**

**Text YES to (832) 610-2511**

**or**

**sign up online at**

**[www.hcmud217.com/alerts](http://www.hcmud217.com/alerts)**

## **Website Redesign**

Harris County MUD 217 is excited to announce our website is being redesigned! We want our residents to enjoy the new look and feel on the site as well as the new added features for easier use!

### **Some additions include:**

- New layout and color scheme
- Bi-lingual option of choosing between Spanish and English
- Photo/Video Gallery from your district events
- Upcoming Events
- Parks
- Smart Meters
- Search the website feature

These are just a few of the new informative and wonderful ways your website will be improved.

***We are looking forward to revealing your new website soon!***





Spring | 2021



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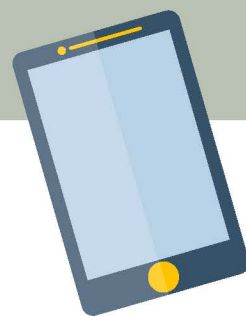
Property Tax Reductions &  
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Hurricane Preparedness &  
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Numbers to know

# 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 Matters (MUD217)  
MUD Admin Bldg Events  
Animal Control

### Number

911  
911  
713-221-6000  
[mud217sec@gmail.com](mailto:mud217sec@gmail.com)  
281-895-8547  
281-368-8397  
832-249-7000  
832-993-3191  
281-999-3191

For any other questions or comments regarding the MUD and its functions, please visit our website or [contact@hcmud217.com](mailto: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](http://www.hcmud217.com/alerts) for Resident Alerts**