

Blue**line**

Memorial MUD Edition

Fall | 2018

WHATS INSIDE:

Pedestrian Bridge & Trail

Tax Exemption

Hurricane Preparation

Watch for Leaks

Two Sewers

Memorial Website

Emergency Alerts

Numbers to Know

MEMORIAL

MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

New Pedestrian Bridge Construction Project



Memorial MUD is planning to undertake the construction of a new pedestrian bridge and trail within the District. This bridge crosses the drainage channel T-103 as shown below.



The pedestrian bridge and trail will be accessible from Park Maple Drive and Enchanted Park Lane on the west side of the channel and from Gable Hollow Lane on the east side of the channel.

This 120-foot long bridge and trail will serve to provide walkable access between the neighborhoods of Oak Park Trails and Westgreen Park. Currently, the only access between the west and east sides of the channel is via Highland Knolls Drive, which is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile north of the planned pedestrian bridge and trail. This project is meant to

establish community connectivity within the District, thereby allowing neighbors both on foot and on bike to easily move about the area. This additionally allows residents in Oak Park Trails to easily reach Westgreen Drive and allows residents in Westgreen Park to reach South Mason Road.



Pedestrian Bridge Example

We ask that residents stay clear of the construction area while the bridge and trail is being built and excuse any interruptions or temporary eye-sores during the process. Currently, the construction is scheduled to start in November and has a projected completion date of Spring/Summer, 2019, assuming all county and flood control approvals are granted. We encourage you and your families to take full advantage of this new community improvement once completed!

Partial Tax Exemption

This past February the Memorial Municipal Utility District (MUD) Board of Directors approved future property tax exemptions.

The Board has passed a resolution adopting a \$20,000 exemption of the appraised value of resident homesteads for individuals who qualify for benefits under Federal Old-Age, Survivors, and Disability Insurance or are sixty-five (65) years of age or older.

This exemption will go in effect for the 2018 tax year. All exemption applications are processed by the Harris County and/or Fort Bend County appraisal districts.



**Memorial MUD
Property Taxes**

Applications can be accessed at the following links:
<http://hcad.org/hcad-forms/hcad-popular-forms/>
or
<https://www.fbcad.org/forms-submissions/forms/>

If you have any questions please contact us at <http://memorialmud.com/contact-us> or visit our website memorialmud.com and follow the link to the contact section.

are you HURRICANE prepared?

Last year Hurricane Harvey made landfall between Port Aransas and Port O'Connor, Texas, as a large 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.

Know your Hurricane Warnings!

Hurricane Watch = Conditions possible within 48 hrs

Review your evacuation route(s) and listen to local officials

Review your disaster supply kit, and 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.

Your Hurricane Preparation Steps!

1. - Determine Your Risk

Find out what types of wind and water hazards can happen in your specific area. 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 entire storm.

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, and at least two changes of clothes and essential items.

3. - Secure an Insurance Check-Up

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! Flood insurance is relatively inexpensive and can be purchased from FEMA through most insurance agents.

4. - Assemble Disaster Supplies

Hurricanes are unpredictable; 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 the power goes out, vehicles can also be used to charge phones and other devices.

5. - Strengthen Your Home

Make sure your home is in good repair and up to hurricane building code specifications. Many retrofits can be done inexpensively. 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.

7. - Complete Your Written Hurricane Plan

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. Know where you will ride out the storm and get your supplies now. Know who you will call if evacuated without your vehicle, where will you go if evacuated most hotels will be full, and where emergency shelters are located.



WATCH FOR LEAKS

Stopping leaks in our water system

We have hundreds of miles of water lines. Water leaks can occur at any point. Your help is vital as we work around the clock to find and repair leaks on our system.

Have you ever noticed standing or flowing water in an area of your neighborhood that doesn't belong there? What about a busted water line or sprinkler gushing into the street? If the water you see is pouring into the street from public water lines, that water was paid for by you and other taxpayers. In 2017, Districts on average lost over \$56,000 of treated water. Reporting leaks and water issues can help keep money in residents' pockets.

The following issues can result in either wasted funds or health and safety hazards, and should be reported promptly to your District operator including:

- Water coming out of the sidewalks
- Water out of meters near the street
- Water coming out of the road

Water should not pour out of the ground around here; it means a leak. Our water table is 200 feet below the top of the ground and there are no "natural springs" in our area. If you see water coming out of the ground it is not spring water and it is not free! We all pay for it.

Why so many leaks in this area?

Primarily due to the ground in this area, known as gumbo soil, which means a lot of clay shifts during drying periods. This breaks pipes and lets the water out.

Need to report a leak?

Call Customer Care to report potential water system issues, including suspected leaks from water mains, service lines, valves, meters and public fire hydrants.

**Si Environmental
832-490-1600**

Other occurrences you should report

Leaking or standing water or sewage

Discolored water

Low water pressure or vacuum in water lines

Sunken or elevated manhole covers

Flooded storm drains

Strong odors from sewer or water

Sewage backup

TWO SEWERS

STORM & SEWAGE

We have two types of sewers serving our community. One is the storm-sewer; it takes care of mostly rainwater and makes sure that the streets are free of flooding. The second is the sanitary-sewer, which handles wastewater from the house, such as the toilet, sinks, showers, dishwashers, washing machines and such.

Storm sewer:

This type of sewer is vital during heavy rains, as yard runoff, roof drains and streets run into it and prevent flooding. Most front yards slope to drain water off and into streets and are set lower to provide a conduit for the water, which then drains to a canal, pond or often Galveston Bay.

You may have seen leaf blowers being used to push yard clippings into drains; this can create a terrible problem during a heavy rainstorm. Storm sewers can become clogged and blocked by this debris and cause neighborhood flooding. According to cleanwaterways.org, "even though yard trimmings and soil are natural debris, when put in the storm drain they flow to our bayous, rivers and Galveston Bay where they can ruin the natural balance of the ocean and harm fish." Because these sewers drain into drainage canals or the Galveston Bay with NO treatment, it's important that we do not send chemicals that can kill animals and plants into the bay area.

DO NOT FLUSH THESE ITEMS DOWN EITHER SEWER:

- Pet waste, animal parts, goldfish, and cat litter, including "flushable" cat litter
- Disposable diapers, sanitary napkins, tampons (including tampon applicators), condoms, other bulky "disposable" products
- Disposable, or 'flushable' wipes' (they are not flushable!), baby wipes
- Q-tips, cotton balls, dental floss, band-aids, hair
- Chewing gum, cigarette and cigar butts
- Corrosive substances, either acidic or caustic
- Flammable or explosive liquids, solids, or gases. Antifreeze or coolant, brake fluid, transmission fluid and automotive chemicals
- Paint, stains, wood preservatives, solvents, sealants and thinners
- Poisons, hazardous waste, fertilizer, pesticides, insecticides
- Big chunks of garbage, sand, metals, wood, straw or grass, wastepaper, plastics, toys, and glass

Many of these items will clog up your house sewer first.

It is each homeowner's responsibility to ensure that only clean, uncontaminated water flows from his/her yard into storm drains. This means keeping not only debris from these drains, but also harmful chemicals and waste. It is not simply civic responsibility, it is the law.



Sanitary sewers:

This is the sewer water from your house that goes to a treatment plant that turns human waste and household sewage into water suitable to be placed in a drainage canal that often makes its way to Galveston Bay. Good old Galveston Bay. The water from the treatment plant is sometimes used for irrigation but it is not reused for drinking. There are many things that should not be "flushed" or put down the drains. (See list in second column)



What's on our website?



memorialmud.com

Communication and transparency is important to us at Memorial MUD, and we want our residents to have access to pertinent district data and information at all times. This website is designed to be a constant source of information, and to provide our residents a place to stay connected and informed.

Memorial Website Features:

- Emergency alert notifications
- Interactive district boundaries map
- View Memorial MUD newsletters
- Meet the Board members
- Access public documents
- Pay your water bill
- Review frequently asked questions
- Trash service information and schedule
- See District announcements
- Resident Awareness updates
- Emergency Awareness articles


Stay up to date with Emergency Alerts



This is an instant alert system to notify you quickly during unusual water supply conditions as well as District works and events. Should you choose to opt-in to this free service the system will send you an email and/or text message notice(s).

In the event of a situation, you will receive a text and/or email explaining the issue. In some cases, you may be advised to minimize the use of water or the sewer system. The District, however, cannot guarantee that it will be able to provide these notices in every instance. The District will also utilize this system to provide notices of important events and construction projects.

While the District does its utmost to maintain the superior integrity of our water supply infrastructure, some inevitable circumstances may arise, such as hurricanes, flooding, power failures, etc... This free notification system allows the District to keep you advised as quickly as possible of any situation or problem.



***Text YES to (281) 766-4020 for Emergency Alerts
to opt out reply “stop” to be removed***

Numbers to Know

FOR EMERGENCY:

Police Department, Fire, Ambulance 911

Harris County Constable Precinct 5- Constable Ted Heap:

Admin 281-927-6700
Harris County Pct 5- (Non-Emergency) 281-463-6666

Hospitals

Houston Methodist St Catherine Hospital 832-522-7550
Houston Methodist West Hospital 832-522-5522
Katy VA Outpatient Clinic 281-578-4600
Katy Urgent Care 281-829-6570
Memorial Hermann Katy Hospital 281-644-7000
Texas Children's Hospital West 832-227-1000
Poison Control Center 800-222-1222
Child Abuse & Neglect, Harris County Protective Services 713-394-4000

Utilities and Service Numbers

Si Environmental (Water/Sewer) 832-490-1600
WCA Waste Corporation (Trash) 281-368-8397
AT&T Telephone Company 800-288-2020
Comcast 800-266-2278

Post Offices

USPS
20180 Park Row Drive, Katy, TX 77449 281-829-5062
211 Baker Road 800-275-8777

Energy Companies:

Centerpoint Energy (electric) 800-332-7143
Centerpoint Energy (gas) 713-659-2111
Lone Star 811 811 or
Underground Digging (Gas, Electric, Phone) 713-432-0365

Miscellaneous

Animal Control (Harris County) 281-999-3191
Texas Parks & Wildlife 281-931-6471
DMV 713-274-8000
Harris County Flood Control 713-684-4000

MEMORIAL

MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT

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Board of Directors:

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Tim Miller

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W F Trotter, Jr (Buddy)

Assistant Secretary

Crystal M. Sampson

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Miguel G. Hull

Investment Officer

Tom Williams

Consultants:

Attorney

Jeanne H. McDonald, PC 281-313-0348

Communications

Triton Consulting Group 281-766-4276
tritoncg.com

Engineer

Costello, Inc. 713-783-7788
costelloinc.com

Operator

Si Environmental 832-490-1600
sienv.com

Tax Assessor

Bob Leared Interests 713-932-9011
bli-tax.com

Bookkeeper

Myrtle Cruz, Inc. 713-759-1368
mcruz.com

Other Contact Info:

Meeting Location:

Harris County MUD 81
Administrative Building
805 Hidden Canyon Road
Katy, TX 77450

For billing questions call:

832-490-1600

For water/sewer/storm issues:

832-490-1600

For garbage service issues:

281-368-8397