

NORTHWEST  
HARRIS COUNTY  
**MUD16**

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Northwest Harris County MUD 16 Edition

*Fall* | 2017

NORTHWEST  
HARRIS COUNTY  
**MUD16**

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# NORTHWEST HARRIS COUNTY MUD16

## ABOUT YOUR DISTRICT

Northwest Harris County Municipal Utility District 16 (NWHCMUD 16) was originally created in 1978.

Shortly after, the district annexed 42 additional acres located on FM 529 and also east of the Southwestern Bell Communications building (which is not part of the District). Today, the district includes a total of 316 acres, including the 42 acres of annexation tract, and 15 acres along both sides of West Little York.

NWHCMUD 16 serves the water and waste needs of three subdivisions consisting of approximately 1,000 homes: Stone Creek, Westminster Landing; and Westminster Village.

Your MUD has selected a new operator, M. Marlon Ivy and Associates, Inc. (MMIA), to operate the 4 water and sewer plants in the district. MMIA is a family owned business that has been in operation since 1970.

MMIA provides many benefits to NWHCMUD 16 customers: a state of the art billing system that includes online and credit card payments, meter and tap installation, underground repairs and construction, 7 days a week plant operations, water and wastewater plant repairs and construction.

Customer service calls are answered 24 hours a day and 24 hour emergency service is provided 365 days a year.

**For more on MMIA, or other district-related information, go to: [www.nwhcmud16.com](http://www.nwhcmud16.com)**



## SAFETY FIRST: DISTRICT WIDE SECURITY PATROLS

**For the NWHCMUD 16 Board, district security is a constant thought, from neighborhood watches to police presence.**

In addition to local law enforcement and emergency services, NWHCMUD 16 has also contracted with On-Site Protection to task off-duty police officers to patrol the district.

### What is the Difference?

A security guard is not a police officer and they have no more authority than an average citizen. When a citizen or security guard detains a suspect, they must contact local law enforcement to complete the report and potentially arrest the individual. An off-duty police officer is a fully-licensed peace officer who is assigned to your area. They are equipped and trained in the latest procedures, and have arresting power and authority to enforce the law.

### Additional Safety Tips

The crime rate in NWHCMUD 16 is already much



lower than surrounding neighborhoods, however you can take steps to prevent crime by observing the following:

1. Don't leave cars unlocked
2. Take valuables inside, don't "hide" them in your trunk.
3. Report suspicious vehicles or person(s) to the Sheriff's office at **(713) 221-6000**

Security should be everyone's concern, and rest assured it is forefront in the minds of the NWHCMUD 16 Board; they will be ramping up Security Patrol hours coming into the holidays by as much as 20%. Please make sure to coordinate with the district, the Security Patrol, and your neighbors to create a safe environment within your district. As always, if there is an emergency, call 9-1-1.

# PUT AN END TO THE BUZZ



Mosquitoes aren't just a bothersome itch, they are also carriers for the Zika virus and more. In the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey comes standing water. Even an inch of standing water is enough for a female mosquito to lay 300 eggs. With eggs maturing in a week, you need to act fast. There are many safe treatments and natural prevention methods to keep your home bite-free, here are a few.

## Outdoor Prevention

Check carefully around your home for likely places to find standing water such as backed up gutters, garbage cans, bird baths, trays underneath potted plants, etc. and empty them out.

A good offense is also a good defense. Encourage a welcoming habitat for natural mosquito predators by installing a bat or purple martin bird house. Consider planting marigold, lavender, lemon balm, lemongrass and basil for their repelling qualities. To get the most from them, make an herbal bundle and burn it in a fire at your next outdoor gathering. If you do use citronella, be sure it's not just scented but actual citronella oil!

## Outdoor Treatments

If you have outdoor standing water as part of your landscaping, there are still water treatments that won't damage the natural wildlife such as Mosquito Dunks®. These donut-shaped "dunks" are a mild bacteria –

*Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (BTI) – toxic only to mosquito larvae. This BTI bacteria is registered with the Environmental Protection Agency as containing no other toxins, thus it will not affect animals, fish, birds or reptiles alike.

## Treating a Bite

*The following are used for treating mosquito bites:*

**Antihistamines:** reduce swelling, relieve pain and help itchy, blood-clotting mosquito saliva to exit a bite.

**Vinegar:** malic acid in apple cider vinegar is a natural anti-inflammatory.

**Toothpaste:** a small drop can help draw venom from a wound and also provide a cooling sensation.

**Heat:** a hot compress can numb the nerves, but unlike ice, it opens the pores to let the venom escape.



## Essential Oils

Essential oils are the highly concentrated natural oils found in plants. Per research done by Iowa State University, the essential oil in catnip (*Nepeta cataria*), was ten times more effective at repelling mosquitoes than DEET (the most common ingredient in insect repellants). Oils that repel mosquitoes are peppermint, lemon, lavender, eucalyptus, thyme, geranium, clove, sage, cinnamon, and rosemary.

## End the Buzz

By using the outdoor preventions, outdoor treatments, bite treatments and essential oil suggestions listed above, you and your family can safely put an end to the mosquito buzz!

**Sign up for Resident Alerts and find more information about the District on our website**

**WWW.NWHCMUD16.COM**

# WINTER IS COMING...

Now that temperatures are starting to fall, it's the perfect time to prepare your home for the winter months. While the fictional winters Jon Snow and the Stark family endure at Winterfell are much harsher than what we experience here in Texas, weather changes quickly; and an early frost could be on us before we know it!

## Winterizing Plumbing Pipes

Inspect your home for any uninsulated pipes, those close to outside walls and windows, or passing through unheated spaces. Caulk cracks in outside walls and foundations to keep cold air from penetrating pipes. For outdoor faucets and pipes, disconnect any attached hoses and drain them completely, storing them away for the winter. Wrap the pipes in Styrofoam or fiberglass; you can also double up and use a foam cover to provide extra protection.

## Don't Forget the Sprinklers!

Sprinkler systems are at particular risk for freezing if not winterized properly. Water freezing in the irrigation system can break all of the system components, resulting in costly repairs. Begin with shutting off the main water valve, then draining

the system with either a manual or automatic drain valve. If the system has a pump, it should be drained and removed from the system if possible. Otherwise, wrap it well to insulate it from the weather. Depending on your system, there may be more steps; check the manufacturer's instructions for your system's needs.

## Keep Plants Thriving

Clear out the old mulch, blackened stems and foliage of annual plants to prevent the possibility of their harboring parasites, weed seeds and insect eggs over the winter. Then lay down new mulch that is crowned high over the bed. Plant perennials that remain strong and bloom through winter months: calendula, common primrose, pansy, and winter jasmine are all good choices. Native and adapted plants can tolerate even the harshest Texas weather meaning fewer replacements and less water consumed. Stop feeding trees and shrubs in late September to give them time to harden off for winter dormancy. Prune injured branches from trees and shrubs. Keep polyspun garden fabric handy to cover annuals if light frost threatens.

## Have a Pool?

There are many types of pools, so check with your manufacturer on the appropriate way to winterize yours. Taking the right steps now will make it easier to open your pool for the hotter Texas months. Above all, be sure to not fully drain your pool; balance and winterize with chemicals to save on water cost and system use in the spring. Proper use of chemicals and a winterizing kit will prevent any molds or algae from growing, which we incorrectly assume draining will solve.

## All Done!

Once you have checked off all the tasks on your winterization list, make sure you continue to inspect throughout the winter to stay ahead of any potential issues. Rest assured, by taking proper care and consideration in the autumn months you will be able to relax and enjoy the winter without worry!



# SMART METERS

Technology is everywhere. Today's new "smart technology" truly gives consumers the rare ability to see things in "real time" (not weeks later) and it's that "real time" information that changes how we live and even how we save. **Enter smart water meters!**

In Northwest Harris County MUD 16, we are always looking for ways do more for our

residents while making your lives easier and more efficient.

As a district, NWHCMUD 16 is conducting tests that may allow for the conversion to smart meters district-wide. Currently some of those meters are being trialed in-district with new NWHCMUD 16 residents. The test trial began the first week of October and is scheduled to last for several months.

