



# HC WCID 116 / Huntwick Recreation Facilities Newsletter

HC WCID 116  
5135 Cobles Corner  
Houston, TX 77069

January 2019  
Volume 14, Issue 1

## Water Conservation Corner

### Frozen Pipes

Source: [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)

Learn how to prevent water pipes from freezing, and how to thaw them if they do freeze.

#### Why Pipe Freezing is a Problem

Water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the strength of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break.

Pipes that freeze most frequently are:

- Pipes that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, swimming pool supply lines, and water sprinkler lines.
- Water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets.
- Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation.

#### How to Protect Pipes From Freezing

Before the onset of cold weather, protect your pipes from freezing by following these recommendations:

- Drain water from swimming pool and water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer's or installer's directions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping.
- Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.
- Add insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.
- Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.
- Consider installing specific products

made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼" of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

- Consider relocating exposed pipes to provide increased protection from freezing.



#### How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

#### How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you can not thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

#### Be Prepared for Winter Weather



## HC WCID 116 / Huntwick Recreation Facilities

The updates regarding HRF Patron, Patron Group and additional services events and activities contained in this newsletter are being provided for informational and scheduling purposes only and are not being endorsed, promoted or recommended by the District.



### Empty Nesters

**SAVE THE DATE!!!**  
**Sunday, February 3, 2019**  
**4:30 pm**  
**Huntwick Clubhouse**



Empty Nesters mark your calendars for Sunday, February 3rd for the Annual Super Bowl Party. If you aren't lucky enough to be traveling to this year's game, come to the party at the Huntwick Clubhouse with the other Empty Nesters. Please bring an appetizer to share.

**COST: \$6.00 per person, includes beer, wine, and cold drinks**  
Make checks payable to ANN CONRAD (this is a change). Checks may be left at the Huntwick Clubhouse drop box or at Ann Conrad's home at 5315 Mittlestadt (281-440-1159).

You must be at least a social member of the Huntwick Recreation Facilities to attend. Not a member? Sign up now and enjoy all the year round activities. Contact the HRF Representative at 281-444-3404 x-4 or email to [huntwickrec@comcast.net](mailto:huntwickrec@comcast.net) to sign up.

### Donut Lake

#### 13715 Charwell Crossing

The Facilities are for the use and enjoyment of the residents of the District, Non-Resident Patrons and their accompanied Guests. The playgrounds and sport courts are open to all District residents and their Guests at no charge. The playing fields at Donut Lake may be used at no charge, and may be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting the HRF Representative and completing the Athletic Field Reservation Form/Agreement.

#### Bark Park

Huntwick's Bark Park is a leash-free exercise area open to all dog owners who are District Residents, HRF Patrons, or their guests. Pets enjoy a wide expanse of fenced lawn, simple playground features, and a fun time playing tag with their owners. Dog owners are required by law to pick up after their dogs on all District property. Please dispose of pet waste in refuse containers indicated for that purpose.

**For maintenance issues noticed at any of the Huntwick Recreation Facilities, please call and report to HRF Coordinator at 281-444-3404 x-4 or email [huntwickrec@comcast.net](mailto:huntwickrec@comcast.net). Thank you.**

### First Friday Bridge

There wasn't any Bridge play in December due to the weather. Friday Friday Bridge will take place on Friday, January 4th at the Huntwick Clubhouse at 7:00 pm. Hosts will be Harold and Ann Conrad. Anyone interested in playing in a fun evening of bridge, please contact them.



Any HRF Patron is welcome to join the group as a member or substitute. Contact Harold and Ann Conrad at 281-440-1159 to be added to the calling list.

### Huntwick Women's Club

Happy New Year! Thank you to Anne Grace for hosting the Huntwick Women's Club Christmas Coffee.

We are so pleased to have our neighbor, Steven W. Nerheim, Captain U.S. Navy (retired) and Director USCG Vessel, Traffic Service, give the program at our January meeting. He has a vast experience in the Navy and has received many awards. He will present a slide show and tell us about the Houston Ship Channel. The meeting will be held on Thursday, January 17th at 9:30 am at the Huntwick Clubhouse. See you there.

### Art After School



Art class for HRF Patrons' children are held at the HRF Clubhouse on Wednesdays from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm. There will be light snacks, and all supplies will be available. Personal care will be given for special needs students. A small fee will cover art materials. Any questions? Please call Doreen at 281-586-9290.

### Huntwick Patron Card Keys

Full Patron card keys will give access to the restrooms at Donut Lake and the poolside restrooms (through the west gate) from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. Tennis courts can be opened using a card key during "tennis time" which is 6:00 am to 10:00 pm. (Note tennis courts are for tennis **only**, and league play takes priority.)

**SPECIAL NOTE regarding parking at Donut Lake.** Due to Tennis League play and use of Athletic Field as well as Bark Park and playground facilities, it is strongly suggested to carpool for your event. There is no parking on street in front of Donut Lake. We sincerely appreciate everyone's cooperation in this matter.

# January 2019

## HC WCID 116 / Huntwick Recreation Facilities Schedule

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
All events are at HRF Clubhouse, 5300 Coral Gables, unless noted otherwise. All events and hours are subject to change.	View HRF Schedule of Events online by visiting <a href="https://www.huntwickwater.com/recreation/events-schedule/">https://www.huntwickwater.com/recreation/events-schedule/</a>	1 <i>New Year's Day</i>  <b>District and HRF Offices Closed Today</b>	2 4:30pm-6:00pm Patron Children's Art Class with Doreen – Clubhouse	3	4 7:00pm First Friday Bridge – Clubhouse	5 7:00pm-1:00am Private Event - Clubhouse
6 8:00am to noon Private Event - Clubhouse	7	8 7:30pm HCA Board Meeting - Clubhouse	9 4:30pm-6:00pm Patron Children's Art Class with Doreen – Clubhouse	10 9:30am Private Event - Clubhouse	11	12 2:00pm-4:00pm Private Event - Clubhouse
13 8:00am to noon Private Event - Clubhouse	14 3:00pm Water District Board Meeting - Clubhouse	15	16 4:30pm-6:00pm Patron Children's Art Class with Doreen – Clubhouse	17 9:30am Women's Club Regular Meeting - Clubhouse	18	19 12:30pm-6:30pm Private Event - Clubhouse
20 8:00am to noon Private Event - Clubhouse	21 <i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i>  7:00pm Private Event - Clubhouse	22	23 4:30pm-6:00pm Patron Children's Art Class with Doreen – Clubhouse	24	25	26
27 8:00am to noon Private Event - Clubhouse	28	29	30 4:30pm-6:00pm Patron Children's Art Class with Doreen – Clubhouse	31		

All participants of Patron Group Events must have and maintain HRF Patron status. To become an HRF Patron, please call 281-444-3404, ext. 4 or e-mail [huntwickrec@comcast.net](mailto:huntwickrec@comcast.net).

This calendar is intended to provide information regarding availability of the Huntwick Recreation Facilities on given dates and times and is not intended to endorse or promote events or activities by any HRF Patrons or Patron Groups.



**District Contact Information**

General Information: 281-583-0707  
Customer service and billing: 281-807-9500  
Emergencies: 281-807-9500  
(Karl Skarboszewski)  
Huntwick Recreation Facility 281-444-3404  
Information: ext. 4  
(Jamie O'Boyle)

HC WCID 116 has an answering system to better serve the community. Emergency calls are routed to the on-call system to ensure a quick response.

**HC WCID 116 Website:**  
[www.huntwickwater.com](http://www.huntwickwater.com)

**E-mail Addresses:**  
Customer Service/Billing/Water:  
[customerservice@topswater.com](mailto:customerservice@topswater.com)

Board of Directors: [huntwickwater@comcast.net](mailto:huntwickwater@comcast.net)

Recreation: [huntwickrec@comcast.net](mailto:huntwickrec@comcast.net)

**For Mail to HC WCID 116 Office:**  
HC WCID 116  
5135 Cobles Corner  
Houston, TX 77069

**For Mail to Huntwick Recreation Facilities:**  
Huntwick Recreation Facilities  
5300 Coral Gables Drive  
Houston, TX 77069

The Huntwick Recreation Facilities (HRF) are owned and maintained by Harris County WCID No. 116 for the benefit of the community served by the District.

The Facilities are located at 5300 Coral Gables and 13715 Charwell Crossing. A clubhouse, six tennis courts, swimming pool, two playgrounds, athletic fields, and a bark park are located on the properties. The Athletic field, playgrounds and dog park are open to all residents of HC WCID 116 and all Patrons of the Recreation Facilities. House Patrons may rent the clubhouse and join All-Patron groups which use the clubhouse for parties, meetings, and other events. Full Patrons enjoy the same benefits as House Patrons, with the added benefit of use and rental of swimming and tennis facilities.

HC WCID 116 provides water and wastewater services for the Huntwick Forest and Huntwick Parc subdivisions. The service area also includes the Providence at Champions Apartments, the Oaks of Huntwick Townhomes, and commercial property on the north side of FM 1960 from Wunderlich Drive to the property just to the west of Champion Forest Drive.

**Board of Directors**

President	Les Griffith
Vice-President	Bob Warner
Secretary	Frank Sklenka
Treasurer/Asst. Sec.	Jeff Handojo
Assistant Treasurer	Cheston Cooper

**Service Contractors**

Operating Company	TOPS
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Regularly scheduled Board meetings are open to the public and held on the second Monday of the month at 3:00 pm at the HRF Clubhouse at 5300 Coral Gables, Houston, TX 77069.

**Water Bill Payment Options:**

**Automatic Payment Plan:**

Have your bank account or credit card automatically debited each month.

Go to [topswater.com](http://topswater.com) for form, complete, and mail.

Convenience fee: \$1 for ACH (paid by District); 4% for credit card.

**Online Payments:**

Pay your account 24/7. Go to [topswater.com/clients/hcwcid116/](http://topswater.com/clients/hcwcid116/), select Customer Portal.

Use a check, Visa, MasterCard or Discover

Receive immediate receipt  
Convenience Fee: 4%

**USPS Mail/Drop Off:**

Your monthly bill includes a window envelope for mailing check or money order directly to TOPS.

Payments may also be left in the water plant payment drop box at 5135 Cobles Corner or can be dropped off at Clubhouse HRF Office.

**Water District Annual Fire Hydrant System Testing**

The District's water system consists of approximately 68,970 linear feet of water lines, or 13.1 miles, which vary in size from 2 inches to 12 inches in diameter. An important component of this system, which is often taken for granted, is the fire hydrant. There are 113 fire hydrants throughout the District. Besides fighting fires, fire hydrants are utilized to perform preventative maintenance activities that help ensure the integrity of the system and provide quality water to the residents.

Periodically you will see the District's Operations personnel releasing water from fire hydrants. This process is referred to as flushing. Flushing of hydrants is necessary for a few reasons. First, flushing is used to verify there is adequate flow and pressure available in the system to satisfy normal system demands as well as the increased demand required in an emergency. Second, flushing is performed to remove sediments from the lines in order to maintain water clarity and quality. Typically, if the Operator receives a

report of discolored water or odor, or a major main break was performed, the operator will use the fire hydrants to flush the impacted main lines to help remove sediment. Finally, flushing provides the District operator an opportunity to verify that the fire hydrants are operational and will function as required during an emergency.

Many fire hydrants appear operational, however this can be misleading. Fire hydrants, like any other mechanical device, can and will fail if not inspected and maintained. Periodic inspection and maintenance of fire hydrants is critical to identify deficiencies and to assist the District with the future planning and funding of utility improvement projects.

The District will be doing the annual fire hydrant system testing during January 2019.