



ACIA

Happenings

September 2011

Official Newsletter of the Atascocita Community Improvement Association

Volume 1, Issue 3



Water and Sewer During a Hurricane

Both of the water plants located in hc mud 151 (#1 & #2) for a number of years have had back-up natural gas generators, in case electrical power was cut off during loss of power due to a hurricane, or some other problems. It automatically switches from the electric power company to the natural gas generators.

Hurricane “ike” happened three years ago this month (august 2008), and we all were without electricity at our homes for about 13 – 14 days. But by using natural gas to power the generators, no one was without water, sewer, and fire protection.

About 3 months prior to hurricane ike, the hc mud 151 board made the decision to change from diesel fuel at the four (4) lift stations to natural gas. Under the old system we had diesel fuel tanks located at all four lift stations. There was only about 30 hours of diesel fuel available on site at each lift station, and the ability to obtain more diesel fuel during an emergency is very slim.

For your information all waste water leaving a residents home goes by the use of gravity flow to a low point in the area, and then the lift station elevates the waste water up, and then sends it on its way to the waste water treatment plant located on atascocita road.

Without the change over to natural gas generators, the decision would have had to be made to turn off the water supply to all of the residents and commercial locations, within the district. Because of not being able to power the lift stations, then raw sewer water would begin to backup into residents homes.

The cost to change from diesel tanks to natural gas was about \$300,000.00 Total price of which hc mud 132 supplied about \$100,000.00 For this project.

About 6 – 10 weeks prior to hurricane ike, the system was put on line for automatic switch over operation.

Hurricane ike was a real problem, but it sure was nice to have plenty of water, sewer, and water for fire protection during those 13 – 14 days.

All mud districts in atascocita have interconnects.

As an example, lets say that an airplane crash took out both of the water plants in hc mud 151, we would open the interconnects and receive water from hc mud 132 and hc mud 109 (oaks). This is an agreement that all districts have with each other. If something happened to hc mud 132, then hc mud 151 and hc mud 153 (walden) would supply water to hc mud 132 – it is share, share agreement between the hc mud boards..

Also, we are not telling anyone not to purchase bottled water during the hurricane season. Do so at your own discretion, but there should be adequate power to supply the district with water, sewer and fire protection (fire hydrants).

Hc mud 151 board of directors

*Kent Spitzmiller, Herman Jordan,
Bill Walker, Lisle Wade and Kim O'Hara*

ACIA HAPPENINGS

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

BOARD MEMBERS

Phil Baumann, President/Grounds .. pbumann@atascocitacia.org
 Mindy Marules, Vice President..... mmarules@atascocitacia.org
 Peggy Reap, Treasurer preap@atascocitacia.org
 Robert Segraves, Trustee rasegraves@yahoo.com
 Kyle Adams, Secretary kadams@atascocitacia.org
 David Johnson, Community Asset Manager.....
 djohnson@communityassetmanagement.com

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

Ron Jones.....
 Tim Mulkey.....
 Laura Lammers
 Sean Parker.....
 Steve Daniele.....

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Fire, Medical or Life Threatening Emergency 9-1-1
 P-4 Constable Dispatch..... 281-376-3472
 Humble ISD Police (Schools)..... 281-641-7900
 Atascocita Volunteer Fire Dept (AVFD)
Non-Emergency Number 281-852-2181
 Harris County Animal Control 281-999-3191
 Texas Poison Control Center 800-222-1222

UTILITIES

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Power Outages 713-207-7777
Street Light Outages 713-207-2222
 Gas, Centerpoint Energy..... 713-659-2111
Gas Leaks 713-659-2111
 Water, Severn Trent 281-579-4500
24 Hour Emergency Number 281-209-2100
 Telephone, Centurylink..... 877-290-5458
 Trash, Waste Management..... 888-964-9734
 Humble Post Office..... 281-540-1775
 Harris County MUD #132 www.hcmud132.com
 Harris County MUD #151 www.hcmud151.org

SCHOOLS

Humble ISD 281-641-1000
Website www.humble.k12.tx.us
 Pine Forest Elementary..... 281-641-2100
 Maplebrook Elementary..... 281-641-2900
 Atascocita Middle School..... 281-641-1000
 Atascocita High School 281-641-7500

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

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View the current issue of The ACIA Happenings on the 1st day of each month at www.PEELinc.com

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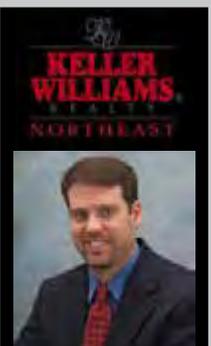


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ACIA HAPPENINGS

POOLS, TENNIS COURTS & MARINA

I am happy to be of service to the community again. Upon my return to the board I was saddened at the amount of projects that have been stalled due to the board being bogged down by a few members and their demands. Back in 2008, I had always said I hoped to improve the pools, parks and marina in my tenure. Now I am pleased to have one more opportunity to do so. Let me give a quick update of what happened at our last meeting and where we are going.

The Marina:

We have heard a lot of talk about this and have seen no action. The board broached this issue in 2009 and 2010 but with the lake full, it had always been too expensive a project to work into our budgets. This year I, along with CAM, have met with select companies for a bid day on the necessary repairs and possible improvement. We hope to compile the bids and start work while the lake is low. The entire board is behind this measure and I will see it to completion.

Tennis Courts:

We have some structural problems to the courts we resurfaced a while ago. Drought and ground shifting have been substantial.

The courts were skimmed to hide the cracks and then resurfaced to make them playable/functional. The problems we are facing now are structural and will require an engineer to see to the leveling of the courts. At the last resurfacing we did not have the budget to repair the foundations/slab, but still wanted to offer the community a playable surface. This time we will look into more detailed repairs, budget permitting.

Parks:

A jogging path is still a very real possibility in the Pines Park. It will be something similar to the park in Kings River providing an exercise area under the tree canopy for parents, while little ones enjoy the playground equipment. We hope to have the budget for all three of these projects this year. I will do my best, with the cooperation of the board and community members, to see these through. It is a pleasure to be back.

Kyle Adams

<h1>THUNDER VOLLEYBALL - TEXAS</h1> <p>@ The Gym, 2325 Atascocita Rd. Humble, TX (across from Lindsey Lyons Park)</p>	
<h2>TVC 2011-12 USAV</h2> <h3>SEASON TRYOUTS</h3>	
<p>Saturday, September 17, 2011 Ages 13 & Under: 10:00-12:00 pm Ages 14(Grade 8): 12:15-2:15 pm Ages 15 & 16: 2:30-4:30 pm Ages 17 & 18: 4:45-6:45 pm (Age as of September 1, 2012)</p> <p>PARENTS MEETING AT BEGINNING OF EACH AGE GROUP TRYOUT</p> <p>REGISTRATION BEGINS 30 MINUTES PRIOR</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <h3>VOLLEYTOTS</h3> <p>Introductory Level Training for Ages 4-8</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
<p>Individual Drill Sessions: SUNDAYS: June 5-October 30 Elem./Middle School All Skills: 4 - 6 PM</p> <p>High School & High Performance Players: 5:30-8 pm</p> <p>FEES: \$25 / 2hr session or \$100 / 5 sessions</p>	<p>TRAINING INCLUDES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Skills • Team Drills • Conditioning • Nutrition • Recruiting Process • Tryouts Preparation
<p>For Information, call 281-359-TVC (8882) Registration Forms: Visit front page of Website: www.tvc.net Director's Cell: 281-639-0239 clubdirector@tvc.net</p>	

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DR. AMERI



FROM THE TREASURER'S DESK

Volume 1, Issue 3

A capsule review of the ACIA financials for the first 6 months of 2011, shows that the cash position of the ACIA is in satisfactory position with \$926,367.75 available on June 30, 2011. Of the \$1,183,082 of maintenance fees assessed for 2011, 92.5% have been collected as of this date. Expenses to date have remained within budgetary guidelines. The annual audit for 2010 is now in progress and a report will be made as soon as possible. The funds set aside for renovating and improving the parks and marina are reflected in the June financials but actual work has been in progress in July and August. Bills paid in August include a total of \$11,905 for general maintenance at both recreation areas: \$6,615 covered filling in safety surfaces under and around playground equipment, \$800 to replace damaged picnic table tops, \$835 for repairing the Pines Park landing, \$500 to replace damaged trash cans, \$700 for power washing, \$235 to repair play structure, \$2220 sidewalks repair. Estimates for tree maintenance, tree health and safety issues among our more than 273 trees (plus those in the 2 recreation areas) are starting to come in well over budgeted amounts and choices will have to be made concerning the work to be done this fiscal period. One more piece of information, seriously expensive work is projected for the marina probably well over \$75,000, more about that in the article by Kyle Adams Chair of the Parks and Marina committee. Full financial reports are published on the ACIA website (atascocitacia.com).

FINANCIAL TIP OF THE MONTH

After years of any discussion of "budget" being considered tedious and boring, all of a sudden it's much in the news and getting attention on the national front but also on the home front as families suffer job losses, real estate devaluations, and rising prices. In last month's issue I mentioned a very successful

tip for saving, which is regularity ("any time you get a raise in income, keep ½ to make life easier, and put the other ½ in a special bank account, and dedicate it to a desired goal." To go a little further, HOW can you stay on a budget successfully without it being too time consuming. Write down every penny you and the family spent today out of family funds (any amounts family members contribute to family funds) and how you paid for the items (cash, debit, credit card or food stamps). Do this for 2 months and it will only take a few minutes once you bully them all into cooperating. At the end of 2 months, identify the categories, each expenditure falls into and note it next to the expenditure. Suggested categories to use: FOOD, include take-out, eat-out, groceries, special treats; CLOTHING, include all types, plus shoes, decorative items, work and school-related, hats, purses, carrying cases; HOUSING, mortgage payments, rents, storage, garage rentals, vacation homes charges, taxes, home owner fees; UTILITIES, telephones, Internet, cells, electric, gas; TRANSPORTATION: gasoline, tires, car payments, repairs, cleaning, parking, tolls, bus fees; ENTERTAINMENT, movies, alcohol, books, sporting or other events, newspapers, gambling; CHARITY, church, tithing, cash or donations; EDUCATION: tuition, board, school supplies, after-school child care, band, test fees. You can tailor the categories to suit your life styles. Once you identify the category, you must be consistent in grouping the same kind of expenditures. Next month we'll continue and discuss how we can finalize information gathering and prepare a personalized easy-to-use budget.

YOU WILL BE AMAZED AT HOW YOU REALLY SPEND YOUR MONEY. YOU WILL ALSO HAVE A VERY USEFUL TOOL TO HANDLING YOUR CONSUMPTION HABITS AND TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN AND YOURSELF MONEY MANAGEMENT.



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CONTRACTOR CAUTION REPRINTED FROM CAI

Finding a contractor who will perform quality work at a reasonable price can be a daunting task. It's always a good idea to ask for and check references and to contact the Better Business Bureau and your state licensing bureau to see if there are complaints against a prospective contractor. In addition, the following warning signs can alert you to unscrupulous, disorganized, inexperienced or financially troubled contractors who may deliver broken promises, bad work and blown budgets rather than professional results.

First Impressions: In any business, first impressions are important. How a contractor presents himself and maintains his truck, tools and equipment are good indicators of how well he'll take care of you and your job. He should look neat and professional, and his vehicles and equipment should be clean and in good repair.

Beware Low Bids: Price is always an important consideration when selecting a contractor, but don't let a low price or a special deal blind you to a potential problem—both can be signs that you should be wary. A bid far lower than others may indicate the contractor isn't experienced enough to know the actual cost of the job or he never intends to finish the work. Disreputable contractors may bid low to secure a contract and then tack on extra charges as the job progresses.

Take Your Time: If you are pressured during the bidding process by tactics such as "limited-time offers," look for a different contractor. Hiring a contractor is not a split-second decision; for this reason, many states give homeowners three days to cancel a home improvement contract — without obligation — after signing it. A prospective contractor should take his time as well, carefully reviewing the specifications of your job before submitting his bid. If he doesn't take notes and measurements and make material and labor calculations, or if he simply names a price based on a similar job, he may not be detail-oriented or thorough enough to do a good job.

Beware Materials Discount: A prospective contractor may offer you a discount, hoping to earn your future business following a job well done, but be wary if a contractor offers materials at a discounted rate. Small contractors rarely buy materials in the high volumes necessary to yield big discounts, and unless they severely overestimated quantities for a previous job, they rarely stock large inventories of material. Discounted materials are usually seconds, ungraded or below-grade minimums for code, any of which would compromise the quality of your project.

Only 20% Up Front: While the price may be right, what about the terms of payment? In general, don't choose a contractor who asks for more than 20 percent of the total cost of a job up front. While some projects require a large initial payment to cover a deposit for products like cabinets or special-order ceramic tile, it doesn't apply to commodity materials like roofing and lumber, which a legitimate contractor will usually purchase on account with at least 30 days to pay.

Beware Cash-Only Jobs: Finally, a contractor who works on a cash-only basis raises a big red flag. Not only does paying in cash limit your financial recourse if problems arise, the contractor is likely not operating a legitimate business, which includes paying taxes and insurance. Look elsewhere for a professional to perform the work.

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ACIA HAPPENINGS

ATASCOCITA GARDENERS ANNOUNCEMENT

The residents of the community are invited to join the Atascocita Country Garden Club for the membership coffee with refreshments on Tuesday, September 13th at 9:30am. The meeting will be in the assembly room on the 2nd floor at the Rosemont Living Center located on 6450 Kings Parkway in Kingwood. The educational program for the first meeting will be on Citrus Trees presented by master gardener, Becky Mills. She is very knowledgeable of the subject and will address questions at the end of the discussion.

Our club has a lot to offer each individual; educational opportunities, friendship and a way to give back to the community. Each and every member contributes a special talent to our organization making it a strong and viable force in the area.

The Atascocita Country Garden Club is 34 years old. It was formed in 1977 by leaders who envisioned a club that would be dedicated to improving gardening skills and techniques as well as offer monthly presentations from talented and interesting speakers. Also, field trips are on the schedule, which continue to be organized throughout the year to tour either gardens of our members or to visit commercial gardens in the community. Other contributions

offered by the club include in depth coverage of issues from Design and Horticultural to Environmental activities. Special events incorporate crafts, 'hands on activities' and annual holiday luncheons.

Whether you're a novice or an expert gardener or involved in floral design we welcome your attendance. The club meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 9:30am from September through May. Our board and membership invite you to visit us in person at the monthly meetings.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PERSONAL CLASSIFIEDS (one time sell items, such as a used bike...) run at no charge to Atascocita residents, limit 30 words, please e-mail mmarules@atascocitacia.org.

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