

MUD 18 Newsletter
July 2011
www.mcmud18.com

Recycling Service Day Change. MUD 18 and Waste Management are announcing a change in the recycling pickup day. The **RECYCLING** service day is being changed from **Saturday to Friday, effective Friday July 15.** The last Saturday pickup day will be Saturday, July 9, and the first Friday recycling pickup day will be July 15. This change is being made to reduce the number of days per week that trash containers will be in front of homes from 3 days to 2 days. Another benefit is that no longer having trash containers out on weekends will foster a more beautiful appearance for our weekend owners and guests. This change, suggested by a number of homeowners, became possible with availability of Waste Management equipment for a Friday pickup.



Waste Management observes the following holidays: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. There is no service on these observed holidays. Service will resume on the next regularly scheduled collection day. This schedule is always available on our website www.mcmud18.com.

Look for a special mailing from Waste Management with more details.

Mild Drought Conditions Continue in Effect. Good news - Bentwater customers have demonstrated mindfulness in wise use of water, especially in landscape irrigation practices. With the continuing drought, MUD 18 Board is especially appreciative of your cooperation. Through the July 4 holiday period, the water usage has not forced us to declare mandatory restrictions. *However, we are getting close.* We pumped 58,000,000 gallons in June and have pumped just over 10,000,000 in the first 5 days of July.



We continue to recommend that homeowners voluntarily use the practices that would become mandatory if we reach Stage 2 of the District's Drought Contingency Plan:

1. Even-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Sundays and Thursdays
2. Odd-numbered addresses run irrigation systems only on Wednesdays and Saturdays
3. Refrain from outdoor use between the hours of 6AM and 10AM and between 6PM and midnight.
4. Outdoor use by a hand held hose or bucket may be done at any time on any day of the week.

Remember effective and efficient lawn irrigation depends on two key considerations:

1. An irrigation system in good working order is a necessary condition to water wisely. 92% of the irrigation systems evaluated in our recent free offer needed repairs and/or adjustments. Is your irrigation system in good working order?
2. The irrigation system controller should be set to achieve a target amount of water - an average not to exceed 1 inch per week in the summer across all zones. Many homeowners have found that running their systems less frequently, but for longer periods of time is more effective to keeping the lawns sufficiently watered. Do you have a strategy for operating your irrigation system that efficiently provides a target amount of water? You can learn how to do this by visiting www.bentwatercivic.com and following the Water Wise menu to the irrigation calculator.

We need your continued attention to good water conservation practices to avoid mandatory restrictions.

New Well Nearly Complete. The new production well will be complete before the end of July. It is 2550 feet deep and is designed to pump 2000 gallons per minute. The well screens are set in the Catahoula Aquifer, which is a proven fresh water aquifer based on historical data and the test well completed by MUD 18 last year. This will be the first well to pump water from the Catahoula Aquifer in Montgomery County. Several others are in design or construction in northern areas of the County.



The second phase of this project will be the construction of the water plant. The contract has been awarded and construction will start by the end of July. The water plant will consist of ground storage and pressure tanks, a motor control center, and two cooling towers. Upon completion, we will have redundancy in our 3 water wells and 2 plants and capacity which exceeds the Texas Commission for Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards with room for future growth needs.

The project will enable us to meet the requirements of the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District, which go into effect on January 1, 2016. Since production from the Catahoula well will allow us to reduce production from our two existing Jasper Aquifer wells earlier than the deadline, we will receive early conversion credits from Lone Star at a 2:1 ratio. This will be a "savings account" for the District to offset future heavy Jasper pumping in drought conditions and to sell to other Large Volume Groundwater Users (LVGU's) who may need them to satisfy the groundwater reduction requirements set by Lone Star.

Hurricane Season - Preparation Reminders. While the official hurricane season begins in June, historically, the latter half of the season is most active. If a large storm hits our area, residents should understand the importance of minimizing use of water, minimizing the production of waste water and other helpful actions especially critical if we have an extended electrical power outage. Your June billing included our *Hurricane Information* planning guide. If you need an additional copy of this information, you can find it on our website by clicking on the "Documents" tab.

MUD 18's role focuses on potential problems related to water supply, sewage handling, garbage pickup and storm water drainage. Prior to the start of hurricane season, MUD 18 conducted inspections of all major storm



drainage areas, like the one pictured, to ensure they are clear of any blocking debris. In recent years natural gas back-up generators, like the one pictured, have been installed on 17 lift stations to provide sewer service during an extended power outage. The area around these generators have been landscaped with shrubs that are fast growing and hardy for this area.



Access to diesel fuel has been arranged to keep equipment at the water plant operating and other facilities operational.

Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone and you can unsubscribe at any time.

Need to report a Problem? Don't assume the problem has already been identified or reported. If you observe a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, alarms are sounding, or other problems, please help us by calling:

Hays Utility Service @ 936-588-1166.

Hays has someone in Bentwater every day, seven days a week. They can and will respond 24 hours a day. Their general office hours are from 8:00AM to 4:30PM Monday through Friday.

Meetings Open to the Public: Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **2nd Tuesdays at 2:30PM** in the Country Club Board Room. Meetings are open to the public. The agenda is posted on our web site and the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Linda Pierce	Vice President	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Treasurer	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Chris Uzelmeier	Assistant Secretary	449-5198