

MUD 18 Newsletter

July - August 2012

www.mcmud18.com

Catahoula Well Update: Water Plant #2 began production from the Catahoula Aquifer on Thursday, July 12. The water has been tested extensively and approved by the TCEQ. The Catahoula water is being blended with water produced from the Jasper Aquifer at Water Plant # 1. The blending of the water from the two plants is being done in the pipeline distribution network to Bentwater homes. The hardness levels of the water from these two aquifers is dramatically different; the Catahoula water is much, much softer than the Jasper water as shown by the following measures of total hardness as CaCO₃:

Jasper/Plant 1 ==> 156

Catahoula/Plant 2 ==> 004

Because of the blending, it is problematic to give exact numbers to individual homeowners. However, the closer you are located to the new plant (behind the fire station on FM 1097), the softer your water will be. Individual homeowners who have a water softener may want to adjust their softeners to account for the softer water. If you are experiencing water softer than your preference, you may want to cut your water softener operation by 50% or more. After a few days, if your water is still too soft, continue to cut back on the softener until you reach the adjustment that suits your preference. Ideal water softness is an individual preference. Some homeowners may choose to turn their water softener off.




Homeowners in the Meadows and the west end of Bentwater will notice a nice increase in water pressure. Pool owners with plaster pools should be aware that as the pool water is gradually replaced with very soft water, the calcium concentration in the water may eventually fall below the level required to prevent damage to the plaster. If you use a pool service, alert them to the change in water softness so they can adjust chemicals appropriately. Most suppliers of pool chemicals will test your pool water for you; if necessary, you can purchase granular calcium chloride ("Hardness Plus" or similar) and the packaging will provide instructions how much to add. We will continue to keep you informed via our E-Blasts and newsletters.

Water Conservation: Water conservation continues to be an important responsibility we all share.

Our new Catahoula well provides a cost effective supply that helps relieve the risk of over producing from the Jasper Aquifer, the source of almost all groundwater for the past 50 years. However, nothing lasts forever. Several other Montgomery County MUDs, municipalities, and the SJRA have drilled or are considering drilling into this same aquifer. As this aquifer is used more extensively, it will become a workhorse water supply for northern Montgomery County as conservation regulations evolve on the Jasper aquifer, We must be aware that wasting water from the Catahoula aquifer can have harmful consequences for the future water supply for Montgomery County. We encourage homeowners to observe the voluntary water restrictions posted at major intersections.

VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION



EVEN - NUMBERED ADDRESSES SUNDAYS & THURSDAYS
ODD - NUMBERED ADDRESSES WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS

WATER BETWEEN MIDNIGHT & 6AM

Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 18 Drought Contingency Plan

Water conservation saves you money and protects our precious water resource.

Recycling Update:



Our service provider, Waste Management, is now providing us with monthly reports of both regular and recycle trash collection weights. Our recycle has been fairly steady this year, averaging 22% of total trash collected. We also have made several counts of recycle bins put out, and we find 50-60% participation of Bentwater households on a given day. We believe this number would be higher except for the following situations: 1) second home/weekenders ; and 2) residents who accumulate recycle on a slower basis and do not put out the recycle bin every week. Both Waste Management and MUD 18 are very pleased with the level of participation and the conscientiousness with which Bentwater residents recycle wherever possible. Nonetheless, we feel we can do even better, and we want to be sure

everyone knows the array of different materials that can be recycled. A chart showing recyclable items is attached. Please consult it and keep it in mind when deciding which objects to put in the regular trash vs. the recycle bin. While WM cannot accept plastic (film) bags, Kroger and HEB provide recycling bins for these bags inside their store entrances.

No Garbage Pickup on Labor Day. Labor Day is one of the holidays observed by Waste Management. There will be no service on Monday, September 3. Service will resume on Friday, September 7.



Vandalism at Waste Treatment Plant : The Park in the Meadows, POA common areas, the golf courses, the yacht club and the MUD 18's waste treatment plant have recently been tagged with graffiti during daylight and dark hours. The Montgomery County Sheriff's Office is currently investigating these incidents. Bentwater POA employs off-duty constables from Montgomery County Pct. 1 to patrol our community and they are participating in the investigation. The Bentwater POA is offering a \$2500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of one or more of the perpetrator(s) of these specific crimes. MUD 18, along with Bentwater, has **ZERO TOLERANCE** for these acts. If you have any information regarding these incidents, please contact Dawn Cleboski, General Manager, Bentwater POA, 936-597-5532 or dcleboski@amitx.com.

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