

## MUD 18 Newsletter

June 2012

[www.mcmud18.com](http://www.mcmud18.com)

**Election Results:** Thanks to all who voted in the recent Board of Directors election. Lou Tichacek and Chris Uzelmeier were re-elected. These results were previously communicated via an E-Blast from MUD 18's website. If you did not receive our E-Blast, we invite you to visit our website at [www.mcmud18.com](http://www.mcmud18.com) and sign-up so that you can receive timely information. Please add [noreply@mcmud18](mailto:noreply@mcmud18) to your safe senders list so the e-blasts are not treated as junk mail.



**Hurricane Season - Be Prepared:** We are at the beginning of the 2012 hurricane season. All residents are encouraged to become aware of the steps to take if a hurricane begins a path to our area. The National Hurricane Center, area news media and civil defense agencies will provide information and advice for residents in the upper Texas coast region. Issues within Bentwater will be addressed by the POA and MUD 18. 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 the hurricane season, MUD 18 conducted inspections of all major storm drainage areas to ensure they are clear of any blocking debris. Neither residents nor their yard crews should ever dispose of yard debris in any of the natural drainage areas or in the storm drains.



In recent years natural gas generators have been installed on many of our lift stations to provide sewer service during an extended power outage. Preventive maintenance has been performed on all generators to ensure readiness to provide back-up power. Access to diesel fuel has been arranged to keep equipment at the water plant operating. Residents should understand the importance of minimizing use of water, minimizing the production of waste water and other helpful actions during a large storm event with an extended electrical power outage. *Homeowner Hurricane Information* is being included with your June billing. This information includes guidelines for advance preparation and important advice for dealing with the aftermath of a storm. A copy of these guidelines is always available on our website at [www.mcmud18.com](http://www.mcmud18.com).

**Take Action Early. Be considerate of neighbors. Stay informed. Be Safe.**

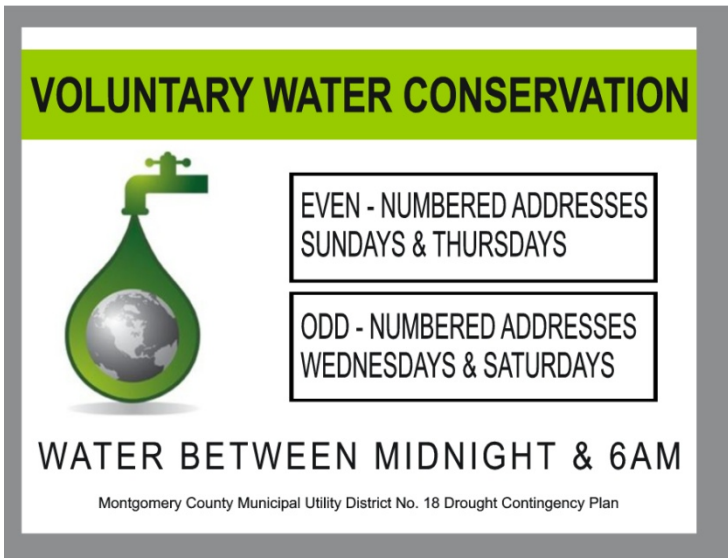
**Catahoula Well Update:** In the last newsletter, we reported that the Catahoula Aquifer Water Well would be completed by mid May. However, there have been delays related to satisfying Entergy requirements to get the meter and permanent power to the plant. The District's engineer, Bleyl & Associates reports Entergy has completed the power installation and the well is in the final stage of testing. Approval from the TCEQ is estimated by mid June. The well is producing about 2500 gallons per minute and is being pumped for a final 24 hour test at the time of this report. A total of 3,600,000 gallons will be discharged to the Miller Pond in this final test. Upon approval by the TCEQ, the well will be pumped into the recently completed water plant (Phase I) for distribution into the Bentwater public water supply. The design capacity of the well and plant is 2000 gallons per minute. Phase II, scheduled for fall completion, will bring the plant to full storage capacity by adding an additional 400,000 gallon storage tank and 25,000 gallon pressure tank. These components will be installed without disruption of water service. Upon completion, the Bentwater system will have production and storage capacity for the ultimate development of Bentwater.



The Catahoula water will be blended with the existing Jasper Aquifer water in the Bentwater system, and will be pumped at the design rate for 12 to 16 hours per day. By pumping the Catahoula well at a higher rate and reducing the Jasper wells by an equivalent amount, *Early Conversion Credits* from the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District will be earned as an incentive to conserve water in the Gulf Coast Aquifers (which includes the Jasper). The total annual withdrawal from the Catahoula well is permitted by Lone Star at 300,000,000 gallons, which will accumulate as double credits until January 1, 2016.

**Reminder - Mild Drought Conditions Go Into Effect June 1:** Based on our Drought Contingency Plan, the Board declares a MILD DROUGHT Condition to be in effect as of June 1 and will stay in effect until Sept 30. Signs have been posted at major intersections reminding homeowners to voluntarily conserve water.

As reported in the last newsletter, the objectives of this stage of our plan is to:



The sign features a green header with the text "VOLUNTARY WATER CONSERVATION". Below the header is a graphic of a green faucet with a single drop of water, where the drop contains a globe. To the right of the graphic are two boxes: the top one says "EVEN - NUMBERED ADDRESSES SUNDAYS & THURSDAYS" and the bottom one says "ODD - NUMBERED ADDRESSES WEDNESDAYS & SATURDAYS". At the bottom of the sign, it reads "WATER BETWEEN MIDNIGHT & 6AM" and "Montgomery County Municipal Utility District No. 18 Drought Contingency Plan".

1. Avoid exceeding the “safe operating conditions” of our wells. If our water supply facilities reach or exceed these conditions, mandatory water usage restrictions will be necessary. The new Catahoula well and additional storage tanks give us greater capacity than we have had before. With the expanded facilities and everyone's attention to conservation, we hope to avoid mandatory restrictions.
2. Encourage responsible water conservation while encouraging healthier lawns and landscapes. During last year's drought, we learned more about actively managing our landscape irrigation systems and how to encourage healthier root systems for landscapes that can better tolerate both drought and freezing conditions. We also learned we cannot take our precious water resource for granted. We must use water responsibly.

The April/May Newsletter contained several important reminders for conserving water. By going to our website, you can access a copy of the newsletter, additional advice and links to sites that focus on residential water conservation.

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

**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](http://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