

## How Are We Doing with Recycling?

Waste Management has provided a yearly summary of regular and recycle trash weights for the year 2012. In 2012, Bentwater collected 919,775 lbs of recycle trash. That's an average of 536 lb per home and represents 28% of all trash collected.

We also received our first benchmarking information that shows how well we're doing compared to others. Our benchmarking community is slightly smaller at 1461 homes (versus 1715 homes in Bentwater serviced by Waste Management). They use the 96 gallon carts as we do. Their yearly average recycle weight was 335 lbs per household. Our recycle average is 60% higher! Our community should be proud of these results!



In 2012 Waste Management did two cart counts in Bentwater. We averaged about 900 carts being placed on the curb for recycle pickup, a little over 50% of the households. According to *The Conroe Courier* (Feb 1, 2013), the City of Conroe and The Woodlands both have an average of 80% participation. Considering that we have many weekenders as well as residents who only put out the recycle cart when it gets full, our current level of participation is reasonable. However, we can strive for even greater participation. While many residents support recycling, some residents may not realize all the items that can be recycled. Your January bill included a handy reference flyer that included all the items that can be recycled. Some recycling reminders:

- **Acceptable Items:** juice boxes, glass bottles and jars, tin/steel cans (including large coffee cans), metal 2 ft or less in length, paper board, magazines, aluminum cans, 12" x 12" card board, newspaper, junk mail and plastic with codes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7. The top of the yellow lid has a table of acceptable items to serve as a handy quick reference guide.
- **Unacceptable Items:** No wire. No wood. No foil. No plastic wrap. No plastic bags (even if marked with codes 2, 4 etc). Other unacceptable items: Styrofoam (plastic code 6, any type of flexible packaging such as film or shrink wrap. *Note: flexible bags can be recycled at most grocery stores, including Kroger and HEB.*

Many residents have found that they save money by purchasing far fewer garbage bags than they bought prior to recycling.

### Recycling Facts:



The aluminum cans recycled in 2010, stacked on top of one another, would be 123 million times taller than Disney's Space Mountain.

Recycling is a multibillion-dollar industry that employs millions of Americans and helps advance our clean energy economy.

## How Does Your MUD Tax Bill Compare?

As announced in previous newsletters, the 2012 tax rate was reduced from \$0.43 to \$0.38 per \$100 of assessed value. Your tax bill is calculated partly by the tax rate and also by the certified assessed value of your home as of January 1, 2012 determined by the Montgomery County Appraisal District (MCAD). In some cases the assessed value is lowered from the previous year; other cases it is increased. So in comparing your total taxes due in 2012 compared to 2011, you should consider changes to both factors. An interesting point for comparison is the change in the average MUD 18 tax bill. In 2011, the average tax bill was \$1852. In 2012, the average is \$1666. The 2012 tax bill was due in January. Late payments will incur fees.



## **Additional Gas Generators to be Installed Prior to Hurricane Season.**

Bentwater covers a large area and has rolling topography, which necessitates the need for sewer pump (lift)



stations. There are currently 26 lift stations in Bentwater. After the power outage experienced during Hurricane Ike, the Board authorized a study to prioritize those lift stations which are most at risk during long term power outages. This study is updated annually to take into consideration any new development. At the present time, thirteen lift stations are equipped with gas generators. By the beginning of the 2013 hurricane season, there will be a total of 15 generators installed to provide power at the most vulnerable stations. This will enable the operator to use the District's portable diesel generator to avoid problems at the remaining lift stations. The District's 5 Year Plan will continue to be updated as need is identified and funding is available.

## **Bentwater Development Report:**

As of December 2012, Bentwater had 1767 homes completed and 21 homes under construction and 2 homes approved but not started for a total of 1790 homes. In July 2011, Bentwater had 1723 homes completed.

## **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