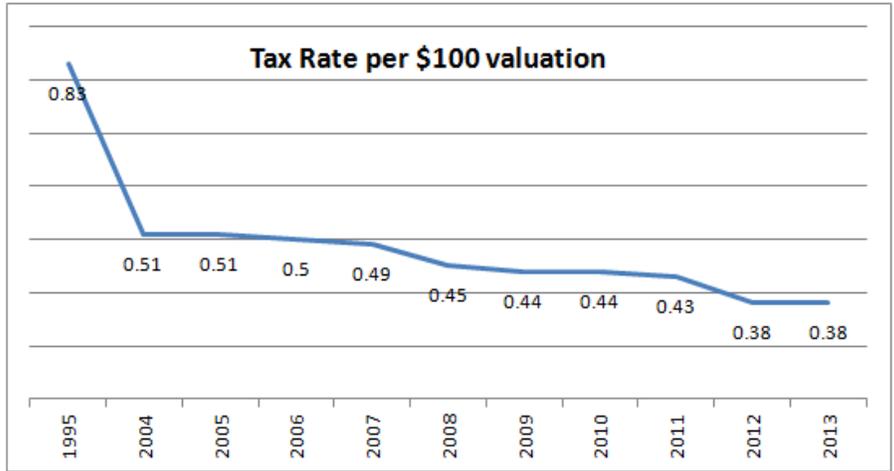


MUD 18 Newsletter
September - October 2013
www.mcmud18.com

2013 Tax Rate: At our September meeting, your **MUD 18 Board voted to continue the tax rate of \$0.38 per \$100 of assessed value.** Over the life of the District, the Board has avoided raising the tax rate. For most years we have been able to declare a reduction in the tax rate. In 1995, the MUD 18 tax rate was \$0.83. The District's tax rate over the last several years is shown in this chart.



The Montgomery County Appraisal District (MCAD) establishes the value of homes and property within the District as of the first of each year. Over the years, MUD 18's certified assessed value has increased, primarily due to new construction. In 2012 the District's certified value increased by \$17 million (2%). **This year, for the first time in our history, the total certified value decreased in spite of new homes being added to the District.** The

2012 total value was \$848 million; the 2013 value is \$845 million. While a \$3 million decrease is less than 1%, it is noteworthy as the first decrease we have ever experienced.

You should receive your 2013 tax bill within the next several weeks. Your tax bill is calculated partly by the tax rate and also by the certified assessed value of your home as determined by MCAD. Your tax payment is due in January 2014.

Change in Board of Directors: The MUD 18 Board of Directors consists of 5 members elected by registered voters in the District for four year terms. At the September Board meeting Roy Champagne resigned after serving seven years as a Board member due to personal reasons. We thank Roy for his service to MUD 18 and the experience he brought to us from his many years serving on the board of his prior District.



A vacancy due to a resignation during an uncompleted term may be filled by the Board. Rex Cambern has been designated by the Board to serve the remainder of Roy's term. We welcome Rex onboard.

Recycle Bin Storage: This is a reminder that the POA deed restrictions prohibit storage of the recycle container in plain view. The POA has received many complaints from residents who notice these containers sitting out on homeowner property. They have begun issuing deed restriction violation letters to residents who don't follow this rule.

Here are some suggestions to avoid the problem. The most obvious is to store the recycle container in your garage. Try to arrange your space so that the bin fits in somewhere and is accessible. If this isn't possible, store it outside behind a fence if you have one, obscured along the side of the house by shrubbery, or behind the house. Another option is to turn in your bin and share recycling with a neighbor and use their bin.



We do not wish to see residents stop recycling and begin putting recyclable material in the regular trash bin due to a bin storage problem. If you have a problem, give us a call and we can advise you on a solution.

Reminder to Adjust Your Lawn Irrigation System. We appreciate the conscientious response by Bentwater



residents to reduce water usage during the recent hot, dry months. Although the voluntary conservation reminders have been taken down for the next several months, everyone is encouraged to moderate the volume of water used to irrigate your lawn and landscapes in response to the cooler temperatures. **Overwatering does more harm than good since this is the time of year vegetation should be building strong and deeper root systems that help protect them during the hotter months.** Please review your irrigation schedule and make the appropriate seasonal adjustments to your system.

Revenue from Catahoula Well Credit Sales: MUD 18's newest well is in the Catahoula Aquifer. The two older wells are in the Jasper Aquifer. As reported in earlier newsletters, MUD 18's Catahoula well qualifies as an alternative water source to the Gulf Coast Aquifers (which includes the Jasper). By pumping the Catahoula well at a higher rate and reducing the Jasper wells by an equivalent amount, MUD 18 is earning *Double Early Conversion Credits* from the Lone Star Groundwater Conservation District. The double credit incentive will be in effect until January 1, 2016. These credits have commercial value attractive to water suppliers who do not have groundwater conservation alternatives. MUD 18 secured credit sale contacts with three entities in the county. The first annual payments have been received. This revenue helps support the construction and maintenance costs of the new well and plant.



Think Green - Recycle, Reuse, Repurpose



Steel

In 2009, Americans threw away 10 million tons of steel. That amounts to more than \$3 billion in wasted material, or enough to buy lunch for everyone in the United States!

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
Chris Uzelmeier	Treasurer	449-5198
Joe Constantino	Secretary	597-8029
Rex Cambern	Assistant Secretary	449-5761