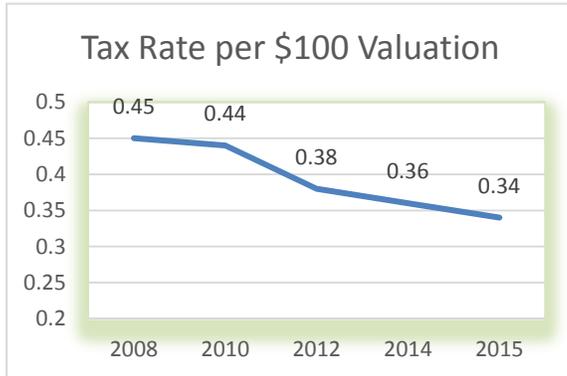


MUD 18 Newsletter
August – September 2015
www.mcmud18.com

2015 Tax Rate: At our September meeting, your **MUD 18 Board** voted to reduce the tax rate from **\$0.36 to \$0.34 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 rate. In 1995, the MUD 18 tax rate was \$0.83. The rate has been less than half that in recent years. 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. In 2015, the certified value of property in the District increased by 5%. The 2014 total value was \$912 million; the 2015 value is \$958 million. Over the years, MUD 18's

certified assessed value has increased, primarily due to new construction. This trend is expected to continue with the current rate of home building in Bentwater. Since the District does not foresee a near term need to sell additional bonds, as the total assessed value goes up, the tax rate should continue to decrease. (See the update on our second Catahoula well in this newsletter for more information on how we are financing this new well without the need to sell additional bonds.)

You should receive your 2015 tax bill in October. Your tax bill is calculated partly by the tax rate and also by the certified assessed value of your home as determined by MCAD. Some homes received a reduction in assessed value, some remained the same, while others received an increase. Your tax payment is due in January 2016.

Second Catahoula Well Update: At our August meeting the Board approved the low bid of \$1.27 million from Alsay Incorporated for the District's second Catahoula well. The Board also approved the low bid of \$1.22 million from W.W. Payton Corporation for related modifications to Water Plant No 1 (originally constructed for our earlier two Jasper wells). These modifications will allow the plant facilities to be shared by the 2nd Catahoula well. No bonds will be sold to fund this work. The District is able to fund these projects by our earlier deal with Porter SUD to sell them half of our Jasper operating permit capacity combined with the sale of a significant amount of our early conversion credits. These credits were awarded to the District by the Lone Star Conservation District because of our early conversion away from the Jasper aquifer when we began to operate our first Catahoula well. These projects should be completed before the end of 2016. The Board also authorized a study on options to keep the water temperature from our Catahoula wells under 90 degrees Fahrenheit.



Notice to Homeowners Irrigating with Lake Water: During the hot and dry summer months, some lake front property owners have been utilizing water pumped from Lake Conroe as a secondary irrigation source. Using the lake water for this purpose requires that the home owner has received permission from the SJRA after completing a "Water Diversion Form for Private Landscape Irrigation". If permission is received from the SJRA, the irrigation system must be properly installed to prevent the possibility of contaminating the potable water system provided by Montgomery County MUD 18.



State regulations do not allow a physical connection between the lake water irrigation system and the potable public water system. A backflow device, while sufficient for a standard irrigation system utilizing potable water, is not a proper safety buffer between your drinking water and lake water. There should never be a physical connection between your lake water irrigation system, and your potable water irrigation system, even with a backflow device installed.

The only acceptable way to prevent contamination from lake water irrigation systems is to never physically have the two systems connected together. If the same sprinkler piping is being used for both lake water and potable water, there must not be a physical connection between the two sources while utilizing either system. The easiest way to accomplish this is to remove a section of pipe between the two systems. The complexity of your system will dictate the ease of this procedure.

The safety of all customers in MUD 18 is our main concern. If you have any questions on how you can prevent the above situation, please contact our operator Hays Utility North at 936-588-1166.

Trash Pickup Schedule on Holidays. When a holiday falls on a Monday or Friday, do you ever wonder if we will have trash pick-up on the normally scheduled day?



- The only holidays that Waste Management discontinues scheduled pick-up is on Christmas and New Year's.
- If you forget these holiday exceptions, you can always go to our web site www.mcmud18 and find the holiday pick-up schedule.

**Think twice as you toss items into a garbage can.
Make the choice to recycle rather than add to a landfill.
Think green. Recycle Often. Recycle Right.**

Need a Recycle Bin? If you do not have a recycle bin and want to have one, call MUD Board member Rex Cambern at 936-449-5761 and he will be happy to arrange delivery.



Sign-up for E-Blasts: If you are not receiving our E-Blasts, you are missing out on timely information. Go to our website at www.mcmud18.com and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone. 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
Susan McFarland	Treasurer	597-7503
Rex Cambern	Secretary	449-5761
Gary Montgomery	Assistant Secretary	597-9256

Please recycle this newsletter.