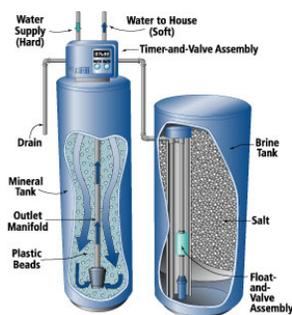


Catahoula Well #2 Update: Catahoula Well #2 is complete. We are waiting on final approval from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) before it begins operation. The TCEQ has a backlog in approving new wells due to additional treatment requirements driven by the Flint, Michigan disaster. Our engineer has submitted the required treatment plan to the TCEQ and expects to get approval very soon. Pictured is the new well and cooling towers. The well is approximately 2500 ft deep and can produce water at a rate of 2500 gal/min. Plant modifications include new electrical equipment in the motor control center and pump room, and elevated cooling towers to cool the water from 107 degrees to about 88 degrees. It is located in the existing District Water Plant #1 (near POA Office). This additional water well and plant capacity will exceed minimum requirements for all of Bentwater's future water needs. The District was able to pay for this well and the expanded plant facilities by selling some of our Early Conversion Credits and a portion of our Jasper permit allocation. No bonds were sold to fund this project.



Do You Need a Water Softener? Bentwater has had a unique situation relative to hardness of our water. We get water from two underground aquifers. The water produced from both sources meets all state levels for human consumption and public drinking water. However, they are very different types of water. The Jasper aquifer which has historically been the source of water in Montgomery County, is characterized as “hard” water with high mineral content. The Catahoula, a much deeper aquifer, produces very soft water due to low mineral content. Water from both these aquifers is blended in the various distribution pipes throughout Bentwater. Due to this blend it is very difficult to predict exactly what blend of the two sources will be delivered to each home and whether a water softener is needed. Because of the location of the wells and delivery lines, the eastern sections of Bentwater have been more likely to receive more Jasper water than those who live in the western sections. Club Island Way is a “notional” boundary to define east and west.

When the 2nd Catahoula well is placed online, the operating plan is that 90 to 95% of our water will be from the Catahoula Aquifer. In recent years, in the summer, Catahoula was 67% of total; during winter 85%. With this shift toward more soft Catahoula water, the hardness in the overall system will be noticeably decreased. If you currently have a softener, after the 2nd Catahoula well is online, you may want to have your water tested to determine the hardness and adjust your softener accordingly. You may find that you no longer need a water softener.



Important Advisory! If you have a water softener, it is very important that you are performing recommended timely replacement of the resin beads canister. A water softener has resin beads inside the brine tank that work to soften the water. The beads are periodically cleaned using the salt that is put in the salt holding tank. On a set schedule, the system regenerates and cleans the resin beads. If for any reason the membrane that holds the resin beads breaks, the beads are free to travel throughout your water system. A sure sign of this is low water pressure. If you experience low water pressure that your neighbors are not experiencing, your water softener may be the culprit. If this case, you are advised to significantly reduce your use of water and call a plumber. **After the second Catahoula is online, if testing your water**

determines you do not need a water softener, consider bypassing it or removing it from your system.

Hurricane Season - Be Prepared: Hurricane season began June 1 and ends Nov. 30. MUD 18's *Homeowner Hurricane Preparation Guidelines* is included with your June billing and in a separate E-Blast from MUD 18. This information includes guidelines for advance preparation and important advice for dealing with the aftermath of a storm, including communication procedures to provide access to the most reliable information on conditions within Bentwater. These guidelines are always available on our website at www.mcmud18.com.

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



Water Conservation Awareness: We posted signs at major intersections reminding homeowners to Be Water Smart. We all have a responsibility to protect the water supply for future generations. It is the right thing to do. And it requires a change in mindset and a conscious change in our daily water use, especially lawn irrigation practices. As a community, let's work hard to change old habits which lead to overwatering. The Board's objectives during the summer months are to:



1. Encourage responsible water conservation while encouraging healthier lawns and landscapes. Please actively manage your landscape irrigation system. *Watering between midnight and 6AM is healthier for your lawn and helps us maintain steady water pressure. Water only as needed to encourage healthier root systems that can better tolerate both drought and freezing conditions. Overwatering undermines a healthy lawn.*
2. Avoid exceeding the "safe operating conditions" of our wells. If current rainfall conditions change significantly during the summer months, such that our water supply facilities reach or exceed these conditions, mandatory water usage restrictions will be necessary. With Catahoula wells, our expanded storage capacity and everyone's attention to conservation, we can avoid mandatory restrictions.

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

Reminder - Recycle Container Placement is Important: Since automated trucks are most often used to lift and empty the recycle material into the truck, the container must be placed at the curb with the lid opening side facing the street. There is a handy reminder on the lid of the recycle bin. Very importantly, the recycle bin must have sufficient clearance from your trash bin to be accessed by the automated truck. We appreciate the continued increase in participating in recycling. Make the choice to recycle rather than add to a landfill.



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? Although Labor Day falls on a Monday, WMS will provide regularly scheduled trash pick-up. 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.



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.

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.

Meetings Open to the Public:

Our regularly scheduled monthly meetings are the **3rd Tuesdays at 9:30AM** 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:

Linda Pierce	President	597-5463
Lou Tichacek	Vice President	597-7010
Susan McFarland	Treasurer	597-7503
Rex Cambern	Secretary	449-5761
Gary Montgomery	Assistant Secretary	597-9256

Please recycle this newsletter.