

## **DON'T MISS SPRING TRAINING**

We are currently enjoying our Spring weather, knowing that it will not last forever. More to the point, our lawns, flowers and shrubs are really enjoying this weather. This is the time of year when plants wake up and get ready for a new growing season. And this is a once-a-year chance to train plants for the tough times ahead – so call it Spring Training.

Because the weather is mild now, there is little need to water plantings. Keeping watering to a minimum will encourage plants to develop healthy root systems. Without this training, plants will be generally unprepared for the inevitable heat of July and August. Some research has been done on this at Texas A&M and it shows the benefits of proper watering practices. Here are some of the photos of grasses and their root systems. Of course, the same logic applies to root systems of all plants.



Root system with controlled watering



Mushy roots from over-watering

In addition to being “good parents” for our plantings, we can be good stewards of the water supplies we are enjoying. Texas, like most states, have public policy requirements for encouraging conservation by local government entities. To this end, MUD 18 complies by putting up occasional signs to maintain public awareness of the need for conservation. Last year when we put up the signs it seemed to initiate a prolonged rainy season, making some wonder about the sanity of the MUD board. This year we will continue to post the required signs but, we hope, keep them interesting and timely.

**Catahoula Well #2 Update:** Our new water plant facilities (near the POA office and near the golf course maintenance equipment area) have been completed for a few weeks now. As noted before, there were a few weather-caused delays in our construction schedule. For some time now we have been waiting for permission to use the new well as a domestic water supply. Permits for this are issued by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, a state agency in Austin. There are no known issues with our new water; in fact, we expect it to be superior to most municipal water in the state. For this reason, some homeowners may notice a change in the water quality when we start using this new source. Generally the water from the new well will have even lower mineral content than water from Catahoula Well #1.

**Recycling:** Our recycling program is going reasonably well. You may have noticed that the truck which picks up the heavy recycle bins is automated. An arm with "jaws" reaches out to grab the container, lift it above the truck and then tip it to dump the contents. If material for recycle is not in the bin, it will not be treated as recycle by this automated system. The recycle truck has only a driver and there is no handy way to pick up recycle material manually. Compacting recyclables before putting them into the bin often makes sense; there is almost no limit on the total weight of the bin which will be picked up by the powerful system on the truck. Sometimes merely stepping on smaller boxes is sufficient to reduce volume. Very large boxes can be cut up if you are comfortable using a knife in this way. And it may seem nice to put paper within a box or big bag before recycling it, but the truth is that the recycle plant works better with loose materials, and loose material may settle more compactly into your bin, especially flat material.

We periodically ask for feedback from the recycling staff at Waste Management. One thing they notice about Bentwater is that plastics are a smaller part of the total material than at other communities. There can be reasons for this – for example, we may get an abnormal number of UPS deliveries here and then end up with a lot of cardboard. Each type of recycle material has its own value, and this may change from time to time. But generally the most useful material to recycle is aluminum, then plastic, then paper. Although this sounds like economics, and it is, the ecological benefits follow the same order. Foamy or stringy plastics are nuisances at the recycling plant and should be avoided.

**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 Memorial Day, July 4 and Labor Day all fall 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 wonder about Thanksgiving, you can always go to our web site [www.mcmud18](http://www.mcmud18) and find the holiday pick-up schedule.



**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](http://www.mcmud18.com) and give us your email address. Your address will not be shared with anyone. You can unsubscribe at any time. If you don't like computers (or even if you do) you can always find out what's going on by attending our monthly Board of Directors meeting.

**Meetings are 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.**