

Municipal Utility District No. 18
Newsletter
September 2007

Your Board of Directors of MUD 18 would like to report to you on several topics of importance to our district.

Board Membership:

MUD Board members are public officials elected by property owners who reside in the district and are registered voters. The current members are:

Lou Tichacek	President	597-7010
Bill Newsom	Vice-President	597-6839
Linda Pierce	Treasurer	597-5463
Roy Champagne	Secretary	597-8786
Joe Constantino	Assistant Secretary	597-8029

Our regularly scheduled meetings are the third Tuesdays of each month. Our meetings are open to the public. An agenda for each meeting is posted on the message board in the breezeway entrance to the Country Club Grill near the Golf Pro-shop.

2007 Tax Rate:

In 1995, the MUD 18 tax rate was \$0.8317. The District's tax rate has been reduced consistently since then. The Board is pleased to continue this trend with another decrease in our tax rate for 2007. At the recent August meeting, the Board proposed to reduce the current tax rate of \$0.500 to the new rate of \$0.490 per \$100 of assessed valuation. Included in this rate is a maintenance tax component of \$0.09. This will be effective after our September meeting. Our tax bills are set partly by this rate and also by what the Montgomery County Appraisal District (MCAD) declares as the official taxation value for our homes. MCAD mailed proposed valuations to homeowners in May giving property owners the option to protest their values. The tax payment will be due in January 2008.

Expansion of Our Wastewater Treatment Plant:

The Board has authorized construction of a \$3 million project to expand our wastewater treatment plant. The funds for this plant have already been secured by bond sales. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued a permit and approved construction drawings for treatment plant improvements to expand the facility to a capacity of 900,000 gallons per day to provide for the growing development.

Several design features have been implemented that will reduce the construction cost, improve operational efficiency, and reduce the monthly power bill. The proposed improvements include: fine aeration and chlorine disinfection to reduce power usage, a diesel generator to provide power for plant operations in emergency conditions, and other facilities to provide for more effective treatment and reduce noise and odors. Construction on the facilities is expected to take approximately 12 months to complete.

Future Investments in Facilities:

In a few more years, we will likely need to invest in a new water well and additional treatment facilities to produce additional domestic-quality water. We will also continue to invest in new underground facilities for delivering domestic water and collecting waste water for treatment. Bonds will be sold for these future facilities.

Conversations and planning are in progress for long term water supply across the state, including Montgomery County. At this point in time, it appears that MUD 18 will continue to use underground water to service the district.

Facilities Maintenance and Improvements:

While we are continuing to add new facilities, we have undertaken projects to upgrade some of our older facilities. Some examples include:

1. The chlorine treatment facility at our water plant was converted from gas to stabilized liquid in the interest of community safety.

2. The District's storm drainage system has been improved in instances where increased development had created drainage problems in heavy rains.
3. The District has over 25 lift stations to pump waste water to the treatment plant. As the lift station pumps become maintenance issues, they are being replaced with improved technology. Improved odor control is also being added as needed.
4. Work is underway to paint water tank # 2. Water tank # 1 was painted about a year ago.

Garbage Collection:

Some of our residents have inquired about recycling programs. Recycling benefits us all by preserving natural resources, energy, clean air, water, and land fill space, to name a few. Bentwater is eligible for a recycling refuse pick-up program; however any such program will incur additional collection costs and should require support from a majority of our residents to implement. Attendees at the annual Bentwater Civic Association meeting in November 2006 were asked if they favor residential recycling. While there was some interest, the response was not strong enough for MUD to interpret as a mandate.

Since this topic continues to be raised, we want to provide information on how a Bentwater recycling program would work should there be sufficient community support in the future. Waste Management, Inc., our current contracted service, provides a recycle program at an additional \$4/month fee. They would supply each household with one recyclable collection container at no charge for disposal of newspapers, cans (metal & aluminum), some plastic bottles, and no glass. The recyclable materials placed in the container would not require sorting and would be picked up once a week along with your regular garbage collection. Currently each household pays \$12.25/month for garbage pickup – this is included in the \$30.00 flat fee for sewer service. Since Waste Management does not provide for selective participation, the sewer service rate would be increased by \$4.00 per month. If and when a clear majority of our residents desire Waste Management to provide recycling services, the Board will arrange for the service. *Attached is a reference guide for Waste Management's residential service.*

There are several recycling programs available in the Montgomery County. If you are wondering what to do with recyclable items including old computers, tires, motor oil, boxes, cans etc.... the second section in the *enclosed reference guide is an excellent resource for some drop-off locations for recyclable materials around Montgomery County.*

Housing Report for Bentwater:

There are currently 74 homes under construction, 25 of which are by contractors who intend to find buyers. Twenty six other homes have been approved for construction, but not yet started. Adding all these to the currently built homes brings the total to 1581 homes.

Need to report a Problem?

If you have any problems, such as a water leak, sewer odor, discolored water, open manholes, etc., call:

Hays Utility Service
588-1166

They have someone in Bentwater everyday, 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.

Sincerely,

Your MUD Board

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE PARAMETERS

Please review the following information to acquaint yourself with our service parameters.

- A. Collection days are: **MONDAY and FRIDAY**
- B. Your trash and garbage must be out, ready for pickup *by 7:00 a.m.* on your collection days.
- C. Garbage may be contained in garbage cans or plastic garbage bags, but not to exceed forty (40) pounds in weight when full. ***All household garbage and rubbish will be collected from the curb.***
- D. Bagged yard waste material such as grass and leaves must not exceed forty (40) pounds when full. Branches and tree trimmings of less than three (3) inches in diameter must be ***bundled and securely tied***, as not to exceed four (4) feet in length, a total circumference of the bundle shall be less than 24 inches, nor exceed forty (40) pounds in total weight. Limbs larger than three (3) inches in diameter are not collected. Bundles will be collected from the curb along with your trash and garbage. Please break down and bundle large volumes of moving boxes. **Collection is limited to fifteen (15) items (cans, bags and/or bundles) per collection day.**
- E. Bulky or heavy trash such as old furniture, appliances, garage cleanups, Christmas trees and similar items are to be ***collected on the second scheduled pick-up day of each week, with a limit of two bulky items.*** Please contact our ***Residential Customer Service Department at 713-686-6666***, if you have a question or unusual item for collection. Our office hours are 8a.m. to 5p.m., Monday through Friday.
- F. Waste Management can not pickup hazardous waste such as motor oil, gasoline, paint, batteries, garden chemicals, smoke detectors, etc. Additionally automobile tires, tree trunks, auto body parts and similar items can not be handled by our personnel. Material generated from remodeling, carpeting, or roofing materials are not considered as typical household garbage and rubbish. Consequently, they will not be collected. Note: Refrigerators must have the compressor removed, refrigerant drained and lines sealed by a licensed technician with appropriate recycled content tag affixed to the unit.
- G. ***If a major holiday falls on your garbage collection day, your pickup will not occur until the next scheduled collection day.*** Scheduled holidays are:

New Year's Day	Memorial Day	July 4th
Labor Day	Thanksgiving Day	Christmas Day

Drop-off locations for recyclable materials around Montgomery County (provided by Houston Chronicle 2006):

Montgomery County Precinct 1 Recycling Center
405 N. Bell in Willis 936-856-4611 8a.m. to 5 p.m. Tues thru Fri; 8a.m. to noon Sat
Accepted Items: Motor oil, batteries and tires.
For more information, visit www.co.montgomery.tx.us/commis3/recycle/precinct1.shtml.

Montgomery County Precinct 2 Recycling Center
31354 Industrial Drive in Magnolia 936-539-7816 7a.m. to 11a.m. Wed; 8a.m. to 5 p.m. Sat
For more information, visit www.co.montgomery.tx.us/commis3/recycle/precinct2.shtml.

Montgomery County Precinct 3 Recycling & Reuse Facility
1122 Pruitt Road in Spring 281-367-7283 8a.m. to 5 p.m. Mon thru Sat
Accepted items: Household & automotive chemical waste, electronics, appliances, etc.
For more information, visit www.co.montgomery.tx.us/commis3/recycle/precinct3.shtml.