



NEWSLETTER

**Nottingham Country Municipal Utility District (NCMUD)
September 2003**

In-District Meeting

In response to residents' requests that more district meetings be held in the neighborhood, the board has scheduled the regular monthly meeting for October 20, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at Pattison Elementary School cafeteria. This meeting will be a regular business meeting of the MUD district. Residents are encouraged to attend. Meeting agendas are posted to the district's website approximately one week in advance.

Park News

The construction of improvements to the Nottingham Country Greenbelt Park has begun. Please check out our website for a color design drawing of Phase 1, monthly construction update and development overview. **Website: www.nottinghammud.com.**

Phase 1 improvements are designed to provide District residents with a high quality park facility while meeting the diverse desires expressed by residents during public meetings. The improvements will include the planting of a tree buffer around the interior perimeter of the Greenbelt park in addition to accent group plantings. Trees in the buffer zone and accent groupings will include 10 different varieties: Bur Oak, Chinquapin Oak, Nuttall Oak, Live Oak, Drummond Red Maple, Southern Magnolia, Chinese Pistache, Loblolly Pine, Bald Cypress, and Ailee Elm, totaling 498 trees (105 relocated and 393 new trees).

Site grading, including relocation of berms and drainage improvements, will enhance both the appearance and the functionality of the Greenbelt Park. The end result will be fine graded and hydro-mulched open green space/recreation areas. The improvements will also include the continuation and extension of the existing walkway to form a complete loop around the 44-acre park. The new portion of the walkway will be 8' wide asphalt surfacing to provide a softer surface for the runners and walkers who utilize the park. The loop system winds along the interior tree buffer zone with three cross-connections to the perimeter walkway. No lighting or parking areas will be installed in Phase 1. Park furnishings include the addition of three picnic areas (total of 8 picnic tables), 3 park benches, 3 trash receptacles, and 2 drinking fountains. The District anticipates the completion of improvements during December 2003.

Every attempt is being made to keep the perimeter safe, accessible and functional while under construction. Please be aware of construction zones and exercise appropriate caution when using the park while under construction. We apologize for any temporary inconvenience the construction may cause. Thank you for your patience during the completion of the Greenbelt Park improvements.

Tax Rate Reduction

At the August meeting of the district, the board set the tax rate. The board is please to announce the rate is continuing to decline. The 2003 Total Tax rate was reduced by 2

cents to .53 cents per \$100 valuation. Below is a historical look at the NCMUD total tax rate:

Year	Rate
2003	\$0.53
2002/2001	0.55
2000	0.58
1999	0.62
1998-1995	0.684
1994	0.71
1993/1992	0.79
1991	0.95
1990	1.06

Water Supply

Rehabilitation of our existing filter system and installation of additional filters at the Water Plant is under evaluation as part of the Capital Improvement Plan for the district.

Emergency water interconnect agreements with Harris County MUD 81 and Memorial MUD have been installed. In the event NCMUD is temporarily unable to provide water – we can, with the turn of a valve, have access to water from our neighbors in Harris County MUD 81 and Memorial MUD. This is of great benefit to NCMUD and a reciprocating benefit to MUD 81 and Memorial MUD.

Reuse of Reclaimed Wastewater

As part of the District ten year Capital Improvement Plan, the District is considering use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation of the park and esplanades along Fry Road and Highland Knolls.

If feasible, reclaimed wastewater provides several economic advantages to the District. First, the park and esplanades are estimated to use about ten percent of district water produced from our two wells (a study is underway to determine actual use). Use of reclaimed water, of course, reduces the amount of water drawn from the water table which is important in the hot summer months when District usage is at a peak. Secondly, water that is not produced by our wells is not subject to surface water conversion assessments which are currently about \$210,000 per year (about \$100 per year for the average household) but will escalate to about \$650,000 per year by 2020 (about \$280 per year for the average household).

The intent of the Board is to pursue this method of producing irrigation water but only if the method is proven to be safe as well as economically practical. In an effort to address several questions including health criteria, plant practices, sampling and testing procedures, and treatment methods, the Board has entered into a partnering agreement with the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (WHCRWA) to hire an expert to address these questions. The agreement will be in effect in August and a statement of work for the expert and selection of the expert will follow immediately.

Progress will be noted on the website and in future newsletters.

Pool News

Every resident who plans on installing a swimming pool within the district is required to notify the operator, ECO Resources, in writing prior to commencing construction of a pool. ECO will then inspect the pool plans to insure that all drains and backwash from the swimming pool are installed and connected to the district's sanitary sewer system and the proper backflow prevention device is installed. Swimming pools must be tied into the sanitary system and are not to be drained or backwashed into the storm sewer. All pool and spas must have a backflow prevention assembly installed. Draining pool fluids into the street and storm sewer system is against state regulation in addition to being ecologically unsound for area surface water. To contact ECO Resources to set up the pool inspection, please call 281-275-1762.

Greenbelt Park Tree Fund

If you are excited about the Greenbelt Park, consider donating to the Greenbelt Park Tree Fund. Sponsoring a tree in honor of a family, individual or group is a wonderful way to recognize someone special. The cost of a tree is \$175. Contributions are tax deductible. Please make check payable to:

NCMUD Greenbelt Park Tree Fund
C/O Avanta Accounting Services
5635 Northwest Central Drive, Suite 104E
Houston, Texas 77092

Please include name as it is to be shown on the Dedication Plaque. A tree is a permanent way to impact the beautification of a Park!

Watersmart Program

NCMUD was the recipient of a Water Smart Partner Award from the Association of Water Board of Directors, for taking steps towards conservation and education of our valuable water resources. Conservation tips are included in your water bill each month.

Paying the Water Bill

ECO Resources is the district operator. ECO handles the maintenance and operations for the district. This includes the district Water and Waste Water treatment plants and collection and processing of the monthly water bills. All water bills within the district are handled on the same time schedule. Bills are due on the third of each month. If the third day of the month falls on a weekend or holiday, the next business day is the due date.

Due date refers to the date the bill must be received by an authorized collector of the district. Thus a bill mailed or postmarked on the due date would not be received by an authorized collector on the due date and therefore, the account would be subject to a late charge. There are four (4) options when paying your water bill.

1-Regular Mail – ECO recommends mailing your payment 4 to 5 days before the due date. Mail to Nottingham Country MUD, P.O. Box 3030, Houston, TX 77253-3030

2-HEB Grocery Store at Highland Knolls and S. Mason Road
Customer Service Counter – Present actual one-month current bill. HEB charges the customer a \$.50 fee for the transaction. Please check customer service counter hours as this can vary.

3-ECO Resources offices – The ECO office will accept cash, check or money order payments from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. They are located at 12535 Reed Road, Sugar Land, Texas 77478

4-Automatic Debit – ECO also offers an automatic payment service. You will continue to receive a statement in the mail with all monthly charges and usage information for your account. The statement will detail the exact amount due and the date your bank account will be drafted for the funds. To participate in this program, you must complete a form authorizing the District to debit your bank account. There is no fee for participating in the program. If you are interested in signing up for the service please call ECO Resources at 281-240-1988.

For any billing related questions please contact ECO Resources at 281-240-1988, customer service representatives are available Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:p.m.

Flood Insurance

Upon the advice of the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), we as a district are making an effort to raise awareness of the need for flood insurance. Tropical Storm Allison was the costliest Tropical Storm in U.S. history. While out here on the plains of Katy, homes were largely unaffected by Allison, the storm certainly left its mark 38 miles east of us. What would have happened to our area if Tropical Storm Allison actually occurred 38 miles further west? Harris County Flood Control District and the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project tried to answer this question. The bottom line is homes along the South Fry Road corridor would have experienced rising water up to 3 feet inside area homes.

The message from the HCFCD is: “Flood Insurance: Who Needs it? EVERYONE!”
Here are few reasons why: “Allison reinforced the fact that everyone needs flood insurance. Due to the intense rainfall, many areas flooded from water simply trying to get to the channels- areas not shown in the mapped floodplain.” Mike Talbott, P.E. Director, Harris County Flood Control District. “Any time you have rainfall rates of four to six inches per hour, or more – and that continues for several hours – no drainage system that I know of in the world is going to handle the kind of flooding that results. Also, when you have rainfall rates like that, then flooding is not confined to floodplains. Allison taught us that a

whole lot of us should've had flood insurance that didn't." Dr. Neil Frank, Chief Meteorologist, KHOU-TV 11.

We are encouraging residents to evaluate personal risk for residential flooding and take action accordingly. For more information on this important issue please visit the website regarding the Tropical Storm Allison Recovery Project at www.tsarp.org. or contact the Harris County Flood Control District at 713-684-4000. Our hope is to have a speaker from the Harris County Flood Control District at an upcoming community meeting.

Communication

NCMUD Board meetings are open to the public. *NEW LOCATION* The Board encourages your attendance and welcomes your comments. Unless otherwise announced, regularly scheduled meetings are held on the third Monday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Phoenix Tower, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600. Please call Christine Orsolics at 713-860-6438 to confirm the meeting date. Address written correspondence to the NCMUD Board in care of Justine M. Cherne with Allen Boone Humphries LLP, Phoenix Tower, 3200 Southwest Freeway, Suite 2600, Houston 77027, or send e-mail to the board members as listed below.

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Visit the District's website at www.nottinghammud.com

