News from HCMUD #18 No. 6

As everyone is aware, the cost for just about everything has risen significantly over the last 10 years and that is no exception for the cost to produce, deliver and treat our water. As we began developing our 5-7 year maintenance plan along with the financial options to pay for it, we undertook a study to review our water and sewer rates which we realized had not changed in the last 12 years – since 1996. What became apparent very quickly was that these costs were not being adequately covered by our operating fees (your water bill) under our present structure. A significant portion of the costs were being supplemented by MUD #18 tax money – specifically the maintenance taxes.
Therefore a new water and sewer rate structure has been implemented which becomes effective on April 1, 2008. The new base water rate will increase from $7.60 to $10.00 for the first 8,000 gallons (with escalating fees for increased usage), and the new sewer rate will increase from $9.60 to $13.00 (flat rate). With the average household using approximately 11,000 gallons per month (more in summer, less in winter), the average water bill would increase approximately $7.40 per month depending on the amount of water each homeowner uses. We continue to try to keep costs under control, but our rate review showed that this increase was definitely needed.

Harris Co. MUD #18 Board

Let's all Welcome Our NEW Neighbors

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ANOTHER REMINDER!!!!!

It seems that no matter how many times the issue of trash/ garbage being put out for collection before the prescribed times is brought up, some folks just don't seem to get it. In April alone, the property managers for the Heatherwood Community Association issued **40** deed restriction violation notices to residents on this issue.

For those of you who follow the rules, thank you. For those of you who "forgot", it's really simple:

Do not put trash/garbage out prior to 6:00pm on Monday evening for Tuesday pick-up or prior to 6:00pm Thursday evening for Friday pick-up. If you use a lawn service, please instruct them to place any bags of yard clippings out of public view until they can be placed at the curb for pick-up.

I'm sure that every homeowner (or renter) in Heatherwood understands how important it is to maintain our neighborhood as an attractive and desirable place to live. If we all do our part, "trash" won't be a problem.

Dave Gooch
Vice President
Heatherwood Village Community Association