

WATER DROPS

**Harris County Municipal
Utility District 132
Board of Directors**

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Assistant Secretary

Lloyd Lentz
Assistant Secretary



HCMUD 132 Bond Refinancing Results in Significant Savings

On July 8, 2010, Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 132 (HCMUD 132) refinanced the outstanding portion (\$1,800,000) of its Waterworks and Sewer System Combination Unlimited Tax and Revenue Bonds, Series 2000 (originally issued in the principal amount of \$2,500,000).

Due to historically low municipal bond interest rates, the District was able to issue its \$1,800,000 Waterworks and Sewer System Combination Unlimited Tax and Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2010, at lower rates than the Series 2000 bonds were issued. The average coupon on the refunded bonds (Series 2000) was 5.51% and the average coupon on the refunding (Series 2010) bonds is 2.87%. The Series 2010 bonds paid off the outstanding Series 2000 bonds and allowed the District to save a total of **\$127,955** over the life on the new bonds, or **\$14,217 annually**, after all costs of issuance related to the Series 2010 bonds were paid.



The Giving Tree

Christmas trees are one of the most recognizable and festive symbols of the Holiday season. For many, it is an annual family tradition to select the perfect tree and decorate it with ornaments – old and new. Christmas trees represent life, giving and celebration, but once the Holiday season passes, many are tossed out on the curb... only to be picked up by garbage collectors and added to our already over-burdened landfills. In our city alone, this happens thousands of times over. Wouldn't it be nice to know that something that brings us so much joy can keep on giving? The great thing is, with just a little bit of effort on our part, it can!

In recent years, recycling has grown in popularity. The majority of us are now aware that reusing items that would otherwise linger in our landfills for, in some cases, hundreds of years, is the responsible path to take. We recycle plastics, paper, metals and even appliances. But did you ever think to recycle your Christmas tree? Waste Management's Atascocita Recycling & Disposal Facility will participate in the Christmas Tree Recycling Program this year. This is a great option and only requires you to strip your tree of all decorations and haul it to their facility (3623 Wilson Road in Humble) between December 27th and January 8th. All trees will be mulched and used as protective barrier at the certified wildlife habitat at the landfill. For more information and for hours of operation, call 281-446-6545.

Another wonderful option is to drop off your stripped tree to locations that then deliver them to the folks at the Brazoria County Parks Department, the Save Our Beach

Association, and Texas AgriLife, to be used in their Dune Restoration Project. This project, which began over two decades ago, helps to shore up the dunes by securely staking trees in rows along the beach – trapping windblown sand which strengthens existing sand dunes or establishes new dunes. This helps as a defense against storm surge tides, and also provides habitat for creatures that live along the shoreline.

It is estimated that about two thirds of Texas beaches are eroding, and this erosion is accelerated when a major storm hits. In fact, in 2008, miles of Texas coastland were damaged by the storm surge from Hurricane Ike. In some cases, dunes were completely destroyed.

During 2009's Dunes Day, trees were placed in these ravaged areas and by that September, they had trapped enough sand to form rudimentary dunes to help protect property, infrastructure, and habitat. By the following year, the dune line was more robust and able to withstand a greater degree of tidal

action and surge activity.

To donate your used Christmas tree to this worthy cause, you can drop it off at Pundt Park (4129 Spring Creek Drive, Spring 77373) between Sunday, December 26th and Wednesday, January 5th (from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.) or call Association Management, Inc. (AMI) – Kingwood at 281-358-9090 to find out their designated drop-off location.

Last year, an estimated 13,000 trees were collected and around 200 volunteers helped to get them on the beach. It requires 1,000 trees per mile to hold the dunes in place, so spread the word! And when you visit the beach this summer, your family will know that their tree was a Christmas gift to a stretch of Texas beach.

If you would like to help stake the trees and volunteer at Dunes Day 2011 (from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, January 15th), you can call James Glover (979-864-1541, ext. 3) or Patty Brinkmeyer (979-233-1461) of the Brazoria County Parks Department to sign up.



Giving: The Gift that Lasts a Lifetime

The Holidays can be a magical time of year. All over town, twinkly lights adorn homes and buildings. Families gather for big feasts, trees shine through frosted windows, and children screech with delight as they open Santa's gifts on Christmas morning. It is a time to rejoice, and a time to give thanks for all of our wonderful blessings.

For some, however, the Holidays (and many other days of the year) can be difficult – a reminder that providing even the basics for their family is a daily battle. And gifts? It's simply not an option. What little they have goes to the bare essentials, and sometimes those aren't even met.

For those of us that have a safe place to call home, good food in our bellies, and gifts under the tree, struggling to literally survive is difficult to imagine. But for countless families, it is a reality. This isn't a problem affecting folks far, far away. This kind of suffering exists in our own backyard. These are members of our own city – our own community, and especially during the Holidays, they need our help. When you boil it down, what is the true meaning of Christmas? Isn't it about love and kindness, family and giving? It's such a great time of year to offer a helping hand or a few minutes of joy to a family in need. Giving - of your time, your expertise, a simple gift or just a shoulder to cry on – can have such a profound and lasting effect. And not just on those who receive.

There are countless organizations that openly welcome and desperately need help. The long-term and continuing struggles of a down economy have overloaded

community organizations who are trying to do more with less. In this article, we are highlighting one of many deserving organizations in our area: **FamilyTime Crisis & Counseling Center**.

Now in its 32nd year, FamilyTime, which provides free crisis intervention, emergency shelter, counseling, support groups, a 24-hour crisis helpline, case management and legal advocacy services to victims of abuse, including domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse, is a deserving organization, to say the least. In 2009 alone, they provided shelter for 696 victims, counseling for 1,957 and answered 17,126 calls on their helpline. They provide services to several counties, so help from the community is always welcome.

"We are seeing a greater need this Holiday season for help with our resident, and non-resident clients," said FamilyTime's Executive Director, Judy Cox. "Monetary donations, clothing and household items, food for our shelter and toys for children are much appreciated. Donations and toys can be dropped off anytime at **Flowers of Kingwood** at 1962 Northpark Drive. Our thrift store in Porter also takes donations, and all profits come back to FamilyTime to continue our programs."

FamilyTime's emergency shelter for abused victims, called **The Door**, provides a safe haven to those in need for 30-60 days. All essentials are provided during the stay, and those housed attend counseling and receive help to find housing, employment and other services.

Laura Holder, a resident of the community and a former recipient of FamilyTime's services,

has first-hand knowledge of all that this wonderful organization provides.

"FamilyTime has an office located in downtown Humble, close to the police station," said Holder. "It was at that police station, a decade ago, that I met a worker who brought me to **The Door** with my two small children. With FamilyTime's support and guidance, I was able to get back on my feet and live the life I live today. I am so grateful to the employees and volunteers that helped me through that difficult time."

Laura Holder now volunteers her time and expertise (providing general medical information) at FamilyTime. Anyone interested can do the same. Odds are, your area of expertise is needed and the public can attend volunteer classes at anytime. FamilyTime also conducts many educational community programs with the public and law enforcement, and during the Holidays, you can donate to the Santa Store for the shelter moms and children. On January 29, 2011, the organization will host a Gala fundraiser to help with needs for the upcoming year. Sponsors and auction items are greatly appreciated for this event.

For additional information on volunteer opportunities and donations, or drop-off locations for toys and other goods, call FamilyTime's main office (101 Main Street in Humble) at 281-446-2615 or visit their website at www.familytimeccc.org. If you or someone you know is in need of FamilyTime's services, please call their 24-Hour Crisis Helpline & Emergency Shelter, accessible anytime – day or night – by calling the number listed above.



HCMUD 132 Director Spotlight: *Lloyd Lentz*

In August of this year, HCMUD 132 welcomed our newest board member, Atascocita Shores resident, Lloyd Lentz. A landscape architect and parks planner for the past 32 years, Lentz brings to the

table a wealth of experience in infrastructure projects...experience that will undoubtedly prove beneficial to this board and the community. In fact, his work often found him partnering with MUD clients – improving or rehabbing parks and recreation facilities, and planning trails.

“Parks are like little subdivisions,” said Lentz. “They have the same basic infrastructure and require roads, water, sewer, electricity, etc. I’ve been interested in getting involved in the community for quite some time. Serving on the HCMUD 132 board seemed like a great fit. When you boil it down to basics, we’re providing the people of this community with one of the key finite resources they need to live. I felt that my past experience could, in some way, help contribute to providing the quality services and resources that are so vital to this community.”

Lentz is excited to join such a dedicated board with a wide array of knowledge and backgrounds.

“My fellow board members, along with their highly qualified consultants, have done an excellent job of providing reliable and low-cost services for years,” said Lentz. “They

have also been dealing with the many issues that an aging infrastructure presents – and they have dealt with them in a proactive manner that will save countless headaches (and dollars) down the road.

Tim Stine, HCMUD 132 Board Vice President, feels that Director Lentz has already been, and will continue to be, a valuable voice on the board.

“Lloyd’s demonstrated desire to serve the community and MUD 132, along with his engineering background and related experience with other MUD’s made him a natural fit for the open spot,” said Stine. “He is already providing valuable insight in dealing with drainage and other important issues. The board welcomes and values his help.”

Director Lentz believes the number one priority of HCMUD 132 is to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of this community by providing adequate drinking water and properly operating sanitary sewer services.

“If you have undependable water and sewer, property values go down, businesses don’t come in, and a host of other problems arise,” said Lentz. “We live in a good, vibrant, vital community. My fellow board members and I take great pride in helping to ensure its future well-being.”

The HCMUD 132 board thanks Director Lentz for making the choice to serve the people of this District, and we look forward to working with him for years to come.



HCMUD 132 Consultant Spotlight: *Carla Christensen*

When it comes to long time partners, HCMUD 132 has some of the best. One of those we hold in the highest of regard is our legal counsel, Fulbright & Jaworski L.L.P. (F&J), who has been by our side since the District’s inception

in 1974. Carla Christensen, F&J’s Senior Paralegal for the District, has served us in excellence for over twelve years, and we think it’s high time we publicly recognize all the hard work, expertise and dedication that she brings to us on an almost daily basis.

Christensen, as well, understands the benefits and comfort level that a long-term relationship brings to both sides of this crucial team.

“Longevity and the building of trust are key components to our relationship with HCMUD 132,” said Christensen. “With many years of service comes the expertise and knowledge base that takes time, effort and mutual respect.”

Christensen chose to pursue the path of paralegal after obtaining her undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University and receiving some career guidance from her godmother – a former paralegal and now attorney. She went on to earn her paralegal certificate from Southwestern Paralegal Institute and later, an MBA at the University of Houston.

On a day-to-day basis, Christensen assists HCMUD 132 attorney, Jana Cogburn, in a wide variety of ways. F&J serves as the administrative office for the District, so main-

tenance of our files, including agreements, policies, minutes of Board meetings, meeting agendas, transcripts of bond issues, election documents, audits and insurance policies are just a few of her many responsibilities. The ever-important monthly meeting follow-ups are also a large part of this busy paralegal’s job.

“After meetings, in addition to the preparation of the minutes, you will often find me drafting necessary agreements, contracts or letters for review, filing contracts with appropriate entities, requesting vendor proposals (i.e. insurance), and providing documentation to the District’s website host for posting,” said Christensen. “If requested, I also perform research of previous District action items and ensure that all required District regulatory filings are made on a timely basis.”

Whew! We’re tired just thinking about it! And when you consider the fact that Christensen does the same for thirteen other municipal utility districts...with accuracy, timeliness and complete professionalism, it’s easy to understand why HCMUD 132 values her so much. Oh, and did we mention that Christensen also serves as a board member of her own local MUD? That’s experience that can only enhance her ability to truly understand the intricacies of caring for and serving this community’s water needs.

“Carla is the heartbeat of the district,” said HCMUD 132 Vice President, Tim Stine. “Her attention to details, scheduling and regulatory requirements is comforting and highly valued.”

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The Science Behind the Creature Comforts

Have you ever wondered what happens after you flush the toilet or turn off the faucet? Where does the dirty water go and how is it cleaned? Okay, so maybe researching this topic isn't high on your priority list, but for those who grew up trudging across a cold, hard field in the dead of night to "visit" the outhouse, the invention of indoor plumbing is no small feat. In fact, it's been just the last couple of generations of Americans that have enjoyed the luxury of gravity feed lines and modern-day disinfection processes.

This "modern-day" luxury - one that allows us to keep our bathroom facilities clean and indoors, and protects us from countless diseases - is an intricate process that requires multiple steps and daily upkeep by HCMUD 132's District operator, Severn Trent Services and the Atascocita Joint Operations Board (AJOB), which runs the wastewater treatment plant at 5003 Atascocita Road.

How does it work?

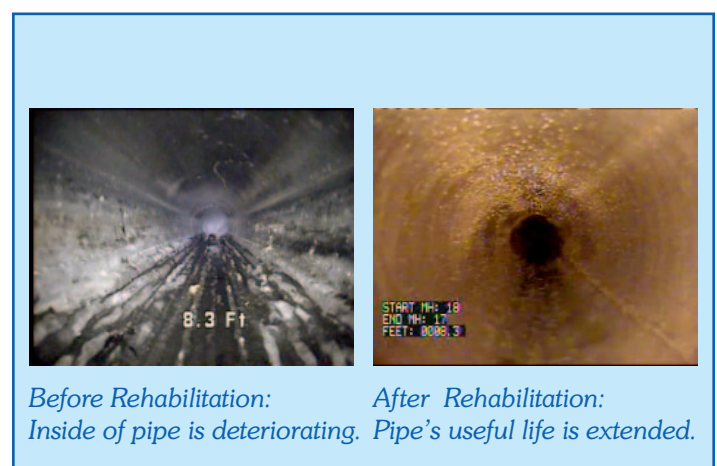
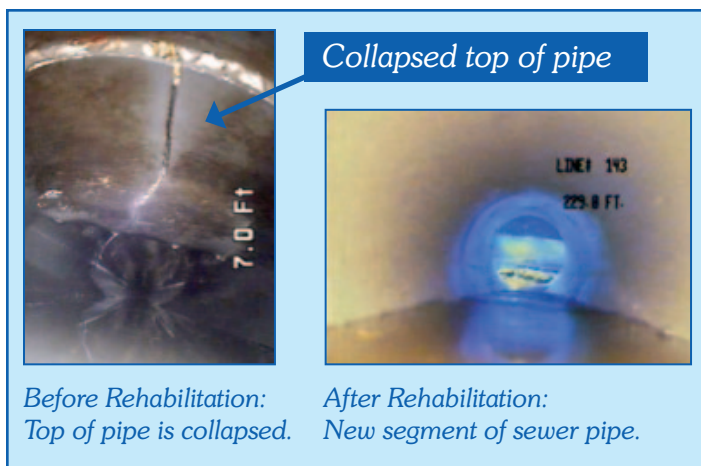
When wastewater is flushed down a drain into the sewer piping inside your home, it first travels through your private sewer plumbing, which is connected to the District's sanitary sewer system at the street or in an easement along your back fence. It then enters the main system (collection system) which flows through one of four lift stations - two of which are owned solely by HCMUD 132, and two in which ownership is shared with neighboring MUDs. These stations have pumps that "lift" the dirty water from mains at deep elevations to mains at more shallow elevations. The water is then pumped to a gravity feed line that collects multiple districts and transfers the waste to another lift station before it reaches the deep, very large

gravity main that flows into the wastewater treatment plant. At that point, the water is treated with microorganisms which eat any remaining solids. After this process is completed, the clear water is treated with liquid bleach to disinfect, and, as required by the state, the liquid bleach is removed out of the water by using sodium hypochloride or SO_2 . Wallah! The clean water comes out and the rest goes to the sanitary landfill. The water is now ready for safe discharge from the wastewater treatment plant to Williams Gully...which then flows under Atascocita Road to Garners and Greens Bayous before ultimately reaching the Houston Ship Channel.

Keeping our infrastructure in working order.

HCMUD 132 serves a community that has been around for quite some time. That also means our water delivery and sanitary sewer infrastructure is aging as well. As reported in the project updates of each of our newsletters, ongoing rehabilitation of our sanitary sewer collection system continues. It is a proactive effort to avoid major, costly repairs or system disruptions in the future. The rehabilitation began in 2004 and should be complete by December of this year. Repairs include everything from major defects, such as collapsed, missing or broken pipe and active groundwater infiltration, to less severe cracking or infiltration issues.

This extensive rehabilitation of the system - which utilizes the latest and greatest in corrosion resistant materials - helps to ensure the safe delivery of wastewater to the treatment plant, and also alleviates issues caused by the aforementioned groundwater infiltra-



tion. As the system continues to age, there will be ongoing efforts to keep it functioning safely.

Why can infiltration be such an issue?

During times of heavy rain (a common occurrence in our part of the world), and because our area has a higher water table, groundwater can seep into holes or cracks in aging pipe and sewer mains, carrying with it sand and other debris that can speed up the wear and tear on pumps and other equipment at lift stations and the treatment plant. It is also costly to unnecessarily treat fresh rainwater. The wastewater treatment plant is a joint facility, serving seven districts. All districts pay a pro rata share for treatment,

based on the number of connections served by the individual districts. Because HCMUD 132 is one of the two largest of the seven districts, we pay a greater percentage than most. So, it stands to reason that the less water pumped through, the lower the costs. Repairing aging pipes reduces infiltration, which reduces the amount of water treated. That’s money saved for years down the road...something we can all appreciate, especially in today’s tough economic climate!

If you suspect a sanitary sewer issue or witness illegal dumping into sewer manholes, give our District Operator (Severn Trent Services) a call at 281-209-2100. Remember, we’re here for you!

Supplementing with Rainfall Just Makes “Cents”

The rising cost of water has us all looking for new ways to conserve. One of the best places to do so is outdoors. The average lawn only needs up to one inch of water applied in a week during the spring and summer growing months, and less in the winter. During the summer months, the amount of water produced in our District goes up an alarming 40-50%, but, barring drought issues, this doesn’t have to be the case. Why? Because we can, and should, give our sprinkler systems a rest, and let nature do some of the work.

Southeast Houston gets its fair share of rain, and we need to take advantage of that. Make sure any automatic sprinkler systems have rain sensors (which eliminate unnecessary watering), and if Mother Nature isn’t cooperating, try to avoid watering in the heat of the day, which helps to combat wasted water through evaporation. It’s also good to stay informed on monthly rainfall statistics. Those months where more rain is tallied should coincide with lower water bills. Below you will find rainfall statistics for the past three years (total inches of rainfall per month). For the latest information, visit our website at www.hcmud132.com.

Rainfall Statistics – Total Inches/Month

<u>Month</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
January	3.80	0.90	2.45
February	5.55	2.70	3.87
March	3.60	5.25	2.92
April	1.40	16.65	1.35
May	6.05	0.00	3.50
June	3.50	0.50	1.95
July	4.10	4.90	10.15
August	6.90	8.60	0.60
September	7.50	5.15	6.50
October	7.90	8.65	0.00
November	10.30	1.95	5.86
December	4.05	6.48	
Total In./Yr.	64.65	61.73	39.15 (to date)

Growing With the Flow!

A Win/Win Compromise

In 2005, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) granted HCMUD 132 an exception to the Texas Administrative Code Rule requiring elevated water storage for a water system serving more than 2,500 connections. The exception to this Rule was requested by HCMUD 132 for several reasons:

- HCMUD 132 could justify that it provides adequate water pressure during peak demands and also during emergency conditions.
- HCMUD 132 wanted to spare the residents the expense to purchase a site and construct the elevated tank.
- Aesthetically, elevated water storage tanks are generally not favored by residents.

The District was allowed to use hydropneumatic (pressure) tanks and emergency power equipment in lieu of elevated water storage to meet the TCEQ's capacity requirements.

Based on the number of current customers and projected future growth within the District (excluding the golf course), the hydropneumatic tanks, ground storage tanks, and booster pump capacities are now being increased to meet projected demands on the system and to maintain a superior level of water service. As a condition of the periodic review by the TCEQ, the District submitted updated water production information and an outline of the proposed improvements to justify extension of the variance approval by the TCEQ. On July 9, 2010, the extension was granted.

A Proactive Approach

Proactive planning was key to the success of this project. The goal was to design and construct the improvements at the appropriate time to ensure future growth was not delayed due to limited water supply capacity. Special consideration was also given to the timing of construction. Water supply systems typically experience lower demand during fall and winter months, therefore construction on the expansion was

commenced in October to minimize the chance of any water supply issues and to continue to deliver the quality of service you expect and deserve.

A Well-Executed Plan

Construction activity is happening at the water plant site on Rebawood Drive. To maximize the available space, some existing facilities are being relocated while new facilities are constructed. This water plant will remain active throughout the project, and we do not expect any disruption to service.

HCMUD 132 awarded the construction contract in the amount of \$1,189,400 to Schier Construction Company, Inc. after receiving nine competitive bids. The Notice to Proceed was issued in August, and review of the contractor's technical submittals was a fast-paced endeavor by Brown & Gay Engineers. Although work is permitted any day of the week, the majority of work occurs during the regular work week, weather permitting. Construction, including site restoration, is expected to be complete in June 2011.

The Bottom Line

Similar to the sanitary sewer rehabilitation project bid last year, current economic conditions proved advantageous for competitively bidding the work this summer. The District will be adding new facilities, replacing some aging facilities (pumps), and constructing a new driveway with the same funds (\$1,117,600) originally approved with the Series 2006 bond issue and reserved for issue at the appropriate time.

A Watchful Eye

Security is always important. The water plant site is fully secured during this construction process. However, should you notice any suspicious activity after work hours, please call 9-1-1 to request an emergency response.

Keeping ever mindful of its customer service objectives and of the construction challenges to maintain its superior water supply, the District looks forward to the successful completion of this project.

Carla Christensen, Continued from Page 4

Board President, Bobby Haney, agrees.

"I am amazed and continually impressed that Carla keeps all of the districts she works with straight," said Haney. "The reality is, not only does she keep them straight, she has the foresight to bring along files and information to meetings that we didn't even know we would need. This often allows us to move forward on issues without waiting an additional month."

Christensen was born in Minnesota but moved to Hou-

ston at six years old, and later attended Cypress Creek High School. She is an avid reader and is passionate about genealogy. So much so that she has researched her own family tree for almost ten years and hopes to one day take a trip to all of the places from which her ancestors immigrated.

The directors and fellow consultants at HCMUD 132 certainly think she deserves that vacation! We appreciate all of Carla's years of hard work and service, and we hope there are many more to come.

Harris County MUD No. 132
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Houston, TX 77101-3095

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Subsidence Costs Going Up

In 1975, the Texas Legislature created The Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (HGSD) to provide for the regulation of groundwater withdrawal for the purpose of preventing subsidence, which leads to increased flooding. The HGSD - which includes Harris County Municipal Utility District #132 (MUD 132) - adopted a "1999 Plan" to reduce groundwater withdrawal through conversion to surface water. Under the 1999 Plan, MUD 132 must be in an approved group that constructs a surface water infrastructure or pay a disincentive fee for ground water withdrawal.

MUD 132 entered into a contract with the West Harris County Regional Water Authority (the "Authority") to be included within its Ground Water Reduction Plan. Although MUD 132 is not within the Authority's boundaries, the agreement with the Authority meets the requirements of the Subsidence District for surface water conversion on behalf of MUD 132. The Authority purchases water from the City of Houston and is constructing a system of water storage tanks and trunk lines to deliver surface water within its boundaries. MUD 132 pays a pumpage fee to the Authority based on water pumped by MUD 132's two

wells. The current pumpage fee is \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons. This fee will increase to \$1.55 per 1,000 gallons (effective January 1, 2011) and will continue to increase in future years.

The pumpage fee was \$0.35 per 1,000 gallons when MUD 132 entered into the contract in 2002. Contrary to the practices of the majority of utility districts that are included in a group for surface water conversion (substantially all utility districts in northern and western Harris County), MUD 132 absorbed this additional cost in its operating budget. The majority of utility districts pass the fees related to surface water conversion directly to the individual consumer.

MUD 132 paid \$420,000 in pumpage fees in fiscal year 2010. This cost will go up in 2011 and will continue increasing in future years. Going forward, water conservation is the only control method available to contain this cost.

The MUD 132 board is reviewing how to encourage conservation and how to equitably distribute this cost to the user community.

Visit the Harris-Galveston Subsidence District website at <http://www.hgsubsidence.org> to learn more about the critical responsibilities of the Subsidence District.

Who to Call...

Water, sewer and drainage questions:

Harris County MUD 132
Customer Service Office
283 Lockhaven, Suite 208
Houston, TX 77073
Billing Questions: 281.579.4500
Services or Emergencies:
281.209.2100

NOTE: If you have water or sewer related problems, PLEASE CALL US BEFORE YOU CALL THE PLUMBER! We will investigate the problem at no cost to you. If it is found to be a water district-related problem, we will arrange to correct it. If it is not a water district issue, we will provide our advice. Remember, we are here to help!

HCMUD 132 Tax Questions

Bob Leared Interests
713.932.9011
(Ask for the HCMUD 132 representative)

Garbage Service
Waste Management
713.686.6666

HCMUD 132 Board Meetings

The Harris County MUD 132 Board generally meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:00 p.m. For meeting location, please check the District website.

Visit us online:
www.hcmud132.com