

Block House MUD News

October 2020

The MUD Board of Directors are busy working on a new look for the Block House Municipal Utility District's newsletter and in the interim we will be corresponding through emails, website posts and social media. This email contains information about:

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- Shred It Day
- Pumpkin Patch
- Zumba Classes

Community Bulk Trash Cleanup Day

It's time to get those bulky items that are taking up space in your garage hauled off! WCSO deputies will be at the gate to check IDs and water bills, so load it and bring it on over to Jumano Park (3101 Black Kettle Dr.) on:

**October 10, 2020 from 9 AM to approximately 2 PM
(or until the dumpsters are full)**



Items Allowed: sofas, stoves, refrigerators, water tanks, washing machines, dryers, A/C units, sinks, toilets, furniture, and other waste materials (certified where applicable as Freon-free)

Items Prohibited: any hazardous items, chemical compounds, mixtures, or substances - no paints, motor oils, gasoline, mattresses, box springs or tires, no construction debris and no appliances containing Freon (Please note: No commercial contractors are allowed)

Block House Community Bulk Trash Cleanup Day (continued from page 1)

If TDS will not accept your waste, there are other options available:

- Williamson County Recycle Center accepts household waste including hazardous chemicals. The County also hosts a twice-a-year Household Hazardous Waste Collection for residents of Williamson County at a designated location in the county, please visit the County's website for more information about this event.
- Curbside pickup of bulky waste may be scheduled up to three (3) times per year by contacting TDS at 512-421-1340 and requesting this pickup service.

MUD Board of Directors work to lower tax rate for 2021

One of the most important duties of a Block House Municipal Utility District board is to levy the tax rate for the MUD and approve an annual budget. This fiduciary responsibility must be taken seriously as the MUD provides essential services such as water and wastewater services; fire protection and solid waste disposal services. The MUD owns all parkland and amenities, so it is very important to budget maintenance and operations to properly operate these amenities.

At its meeting on September 14, the Block House Municipal Utility District Board of Directors paved the way to lower tax rate for 2020/2021 by setting a ceiling on the tax rate of \$0.7600 on each \$100 of taxable property value within the MUD. After the public hearing on September 28, the Board adopted the 2020/21 budget and the 2020/21 MUD tax rate. This lowers the tax rate from the previous year's rate of \$0.8085 per \$100 - - a decrease of \$0.0485. An average home appraised at \$233,000 will see an approximate annual reduction of \$113.01 in MUD tax.

Bike Park



On September 12, a group of approximately 40 volunteers including scouts and community members shared their time to finish maintenance on the bike park. The volunteers had set aside two days to finish the project and with the great number of volunteers the project was finished in one day. A **BIG Thank You** goes out to BH MUD Board Members Steve Bennett and Byron Koenig for organizing this community project and showing true leadership in action.

Walker House Phone Service Disruptions

The Walker House phone system has been having intermittent service disruptions. We are in the queue to get a new underground line in the next couple of weeks. Hopefully, the new line will get us back in service. In the meantime, if you have any questions please email gm@blockhousemud.com. Thanks for your understanding.

COVID-19 Update

As a governmental entity, the MUD is required to adhere to rules and regulations up set by the state and county. Governor Greg Abbott's guidance on the [Open Texas website](#) includes executive orders associated protocols for social distancing, face masks and capacity restrictions in park and public facilities.

The following amenities are currently open:

- Luther Chance Field - no organized team reservations, no more than 10 persons at one time; 6 feet social distancing and a face covering (over the nose and mouth) required
- Tonkawa Fields - no organized team reservations, no more than 10 persons at one time; 6 feet social distancing and a face covering (over the nose and mouth) required
- Tennis Courts - no more than 4 persons at one time; 6 feet social distancing and a face covering (over the nose and mouth) required
- Volleyball Court - no more than 4 persons at one time; 6 feet social distancing and a face covering (over the nose and mouth) required
- Bike Trail - no more than 10 persons at one time; 6 feet social distancing and a face covering (over the nose and mouth) required
- Pools – limited access per state guidelines and percentages; 6 feet social distancing and a face covering (over the nose and mouth) required outside pool

To adhere to these protocols and reduce the spread of COVID-19, the following MUD facilities **remain closed** for safety reasons:

- Walker House
- Jumano Park Community Center
- Water Fountains in Apache and Tumlinson Parks
- Restroom and Pavilion in Tumlinson Park
- Basketball Court

In addition, **no reservations** for sports fields or facilities are currently being accepted. Fields are limited to a capacity of 10 persons or less with six feet social distancing and facial masks with nose and mouth coverings. The Pavilion is also limited to 10 persons or less with six feet social distancing and facial masks.

Playscapes/playgrounds are considered high touch zones and it is near impossible to keep them clean from possible COVID-19 exposures. Please exercise extreme caution with children utilizing the playscapes/playgrounds and at your own risk. These facilities are also limited to a capacity of 10 persons or less with six feet social distancing and facial masks with nose and mouth coverings. Washing or sanitizing hands after playing on any equipment is highly recommended. Parents are encouraged to ensure that their children practice social distancing and take appropriate precautions to reduce the likelihood of contact contamination on playgrounds.

Tonkawa Playscape Canopy

The Tonkawa Park playscape canopy has been replaced after it was damaged in a wind storm.



HAVE FUN and please remember to follow COVID-19 protocols and guidelines such as limiting capacity to 10 persons or less with six feet social distancing and facial masks with nose and mouth coverings.

Pedernales Electric (PEC) Upgrade Projects

Two Pedernales Electric Cooperative (PEC) projects began in August to upgrade service in the Block House Community and surrounding areas. These projects include an expansion of the substation adjacent to Jumano Park and transmission lines upgrades through Susan Channel. PEC mailed letters to affected residents and are using an automated call system to notify of any issues related to the project.

Leander High School Swim Meet Schedule

The Leander HS Swim Team has an annual agreement with the MUD to use the Apache Pool. The agreement includes their regular morning practices and swim meets. This year's swim meet schedule includes the following dates:

- Saturday, October 3rd (7 a.m.–12:30 p.m.)
- Friday, November 6th (12 p.m. – 4. p.m.)
- Thursday, November 12th (12 p.m.– 4. p.m.)
- Friday, November 20th (12 p.m.– 4. p.m.)

Good Luck to the LHS Swim Team this year!

Pool Schedule for 2020-21

Tumlinson Pool closed for the season on September 30. A new schedule for pool operational hours is under review for approval by the MUD Board including updating and adjusted hours for the Apache Pool. Please watch for the updated schedule on the MUD's website under Pools.

Utility Bill Assistance

If you are currently experiencing a hardship with your paying your MUD utility bill, please contact Crossroads Utilities Services at 512-246-1600 to discuss what options might be available to assist you.

Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) Waste Wizard

To keep up with all your solid waste solutions, the TDS Waste Wizard application is available for downloading on your phone at texasdisposal.com/waste-wizard. It provides your customized collection calendar for trash, recycling, and green waste pickup, plus holiday scheduling and local disposal guidelines.

Owner's Association Upcoming Events

- Shred It Day – October 3 at Jumano Park from 9 a.m. to noon
- Pumpkin Patch – Dates and times to be announced
- Zumba Classes – Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. starting October 6 at the Pavilion