FERN BLUFF
Municipal Utility District

NEWS UPDATES – APRIL 2019

NEW AUTOMATED TRASH PICK-UP COMING SOON – APRIL 22, 2019- EARTH DAY!

BEGINNING MONDAY, APRIL 22ND, Round Rock Refuse will begin using **AUTOMATED REFUSE COLLECTION TRUCKS** throughout our district. The refuse collection industry is moving away from manual collection as automated trucks are safer, faster, quieter and cleaner than the current method. To enable this new automated system, homeowners will need to make a few adjustments to the way you put out your trash. These changes include:

- Using your current trash carts, set your cart on a flat surface at the edge of the curb or at the end of your driveway apron.
- **The cart must be a minimum of three (3) feet away from any objects such as mailboxes, trees, utility poles, vehicles, and your other cart on recycling days.**
- For those of you who live in cul-de-sacs, please ensure you allow the prescribed separation between your neighbor's carts and vehicles.
- Do not place your cart under low wires or low overhanging branches.
- The wheels and handle of the cart should be facing your home (away from the road).
- Extra bags/items may still be left on the curb up to the current limitations. These will be collected by a second truck following the automated truck.
- **Reminder, Trash must be out by 7AM on your collection day.**

Look for a letter in the mail and visit our web site www.fernbluffmud.org "LATEST NEWS" for more information.

SPRING BULK TRASH PICKUP – MAY 4

ON SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2019, STARTING AT 7AM, THE FERN BLUFF MUD WILL HAVE ITS SPRING BULK PICKUP. Round Rock Refuse, the MUD's contractor for solid waste removal will collect trash and brush placed at the curb. Items must be placed on the curb **NO LATER THAN MAY 4TH AT 7AM**. Items placed after 7AM will be the resident's responsibility to dispose. When placing items, please do not block the sidewalk. Items may be placed in the street. If you encounter any pickup issues, please contact Central Texas Refuse at 512-255-4980. Please go to our website at (https://fernbluffmud.org/uncategorized/spring-bulk-pickup-sat/) for information on what items are/are not acceptable. HHW vouchers are also available at the MUD office M-F, 8AM to 5PM, free to MUD residents.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS

The District is continuing to improve the landscaping in our parks and recent additions have been new mulch beds with updated plant material, additional picnic tables (adult and kid size) and **we are excited to introduce our WILDFLOWER PROGRAM**! Areas have been designated in Olson Meadows, Veterans and Friendly Oaks Park as well as the Brightwater Greenbelt for an extensive wildflower program. You may have seen the above ground, white irrigation lines and these will remain for the first year as the program get off the ground and establishes itself this first year. Hopefully, we will have a good flowering in 2019 but 2020 should be spectacular! Plans are to add a butterfly and plant exhibit garden this spring. Please check the web site for updates.

Greenbelts and Parks are receiving a clean-up and you may have noticed numerous piles of cut limbs and brush. Maintenance personnel will be removing and chipping these areas over the next several weeks. Please avoid the areas if you see workers or orange cones, for everyone's safety. Additionally, we have an ongoing issue with residents dumping yard debris, construction materials and trash in our parks and greenbelts. Please properly dispose of your materials either on normal garbage days or schedule a trip to the landfill if needed. Illegal dumping is costly and unsightly.

COMMUNITY CENTER

Planning a birthday party, baby shower or another event you aren't sure your house will accommodate comfortably? **Your MUD Community Center has very affordable rates**. From small rooms to the entire center, stop in and see the renovations and the new outdoor space. Call us at 512-238-0606 or come by 7320 Wyoming Springs Drive, we would love to see you.

LEASH LAW & PET WASTE

Pets… A continuing problem and deed restriction violation in all neighborhoods concerns pets out and about without a leash and/or their owners. **WILLIAMSON COUNTY DOES HAVE A LEASH LAW THAT REQUIRES ALL DOGS TO BE LEASHED WHEN NOT ON THEIR OWNER'S PROPERTY.** They can chase vehicles, bikes and small children, damage property and attack other animals. Multiple loose dogs, though they may be friendly individually, may become aggressive in packs. Not everyone is a dog person, and many are fearful. It's dangerous for your dog, you and other people if you let your dog leave your property without being attached to you by a leash. **Due to recent events on trails and parks, the district has requested increased enforcement and all dogs are banned from playscape areas in district parks.**

When walking your dog, please pick up its deposits, whether along the street, sidewalks, trails, in the parks or residents' yards. No one wants their children (or themselves) to step into someone else's mess. If your children have walking duty, please remind them of this courtesy as well. **Always carry plastic bags along to make the "scooping" more convenient.**

STORM DRAINS & YARD CLEANUP

With spring bringing tree trimming and lawn cutting, it also brings a reminder **to please *BAG* your leaves and grass for discard or mulch them into your yard**. Sweeping or blowing yard debris into the streets or gutters causes that debris to end up in our storm drains. Never pour paint or other chemicals into curb cuts (storm drains.) The MUD then has to spend money (tax revenue) to have these storm sewer systems cleared to provide for proper drainage and water collection. Our storm drains and their maintenance are paid with our MUD taxes.

Please ask your lawn maintenance provider (whether it's a paid service or your spouse or child) to bag leaves and grass and put these in the proper receptacles for trash pick-up. Also, if there are leaves, acorns and small, broken branches from your trees along the curb line of the street in front of your home, please bag these as well. **Leaves and debris blown into in the streets and foreign substances poured into storm drains are unsightly and dangerous and my subject homeowners to fines and penalties of up to $250.00 per day for each occurrence.**

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

Fern Bluff MUD is ramping up its backflow prevention program! State law requires water systems to have a backflow prevention program to help prevent potentially dangerous backflow into the water system by way of swimming pools or irrigation systems. Please keep an eye out for future communication regarding this program. In the meantime, any backflow testing done to one of your devices can be reported by your Backflow Prevention Assembly Tester online at www.bsionlinetracking.com

GET THE FERN BLUFF MOBILE APP

Fern Bluff MUD has a Mobile App available for both iOS and Android devices which can be downloaded for free. Search your app store for "FernBluffMUD". The new app allows residents to easily access information, submit forms, pay bills, report waterline or sewer issues, and more. You will also get notifications of district wide issues such as boil alerts, main breaks, water restrictions, and park closings to name a few.