

Heartbeat of *The Hickory*



AUTUMN 2011

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Understanding Permits

We are still asking area landowners to permit or register their wells. The process often creates a bit of confusion.

Registration:

If you have a well that produces less than 25,000 gallons a day and is used for domestic (house) or livestock, you probably just need a registration form. These wells fall under the heading of “exempt” wells. Other criteria for “exempt” wells can be found on our website under our rules:

<http://hickorywcd.org/HickoryRules.htm>

Permits:

If you have a well that produces more than 25,000 gallons a day or is used for irrigation, industrial, commercial, or municipal use, then that well needs to be permitted. A permit application is bit more complex but the District Staff is always available to assist.

Prior to drilling a well for which a permit is needed, the permit application should be completed and approved by the board. The board reviews permit applications during a hearing portion of a board meeting.

Enforcement:

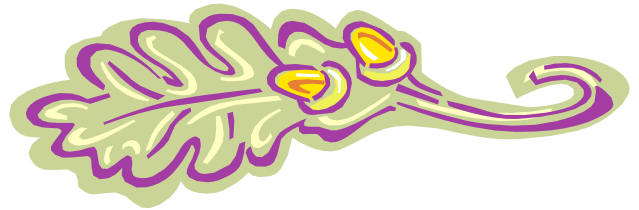
The District under Texas Water Code Chapter 36.102 may enforce its rules by injunction, mandatory injunction, or other appropriate remedy in a court of competent jurisdiction, including civil penalties against any person for breach of any rule of the district not to exceed \$10,000 per day per violation, and each day of a continuing violation constitutes a separate violation.

You can read more in Chapter 36, Texas Water Code:
<http://www.statutes.legis.state.tx.us/Docs/WA/htm/WA.36.htm>

Why is this process beneficial to you?

Recently many landowners have turned to the District because of drought conditions. If the District does not know you have a well and how much water you are using, it is difficult to assist. The rules cover all landowners from the small home-owner with a domestic well to the irrigators, sand mines, and cities.

All necessary forms can be found on our website:
<http://hickorywcd.org/formsandbrochures.htm>



Poster Contest 2011/2012

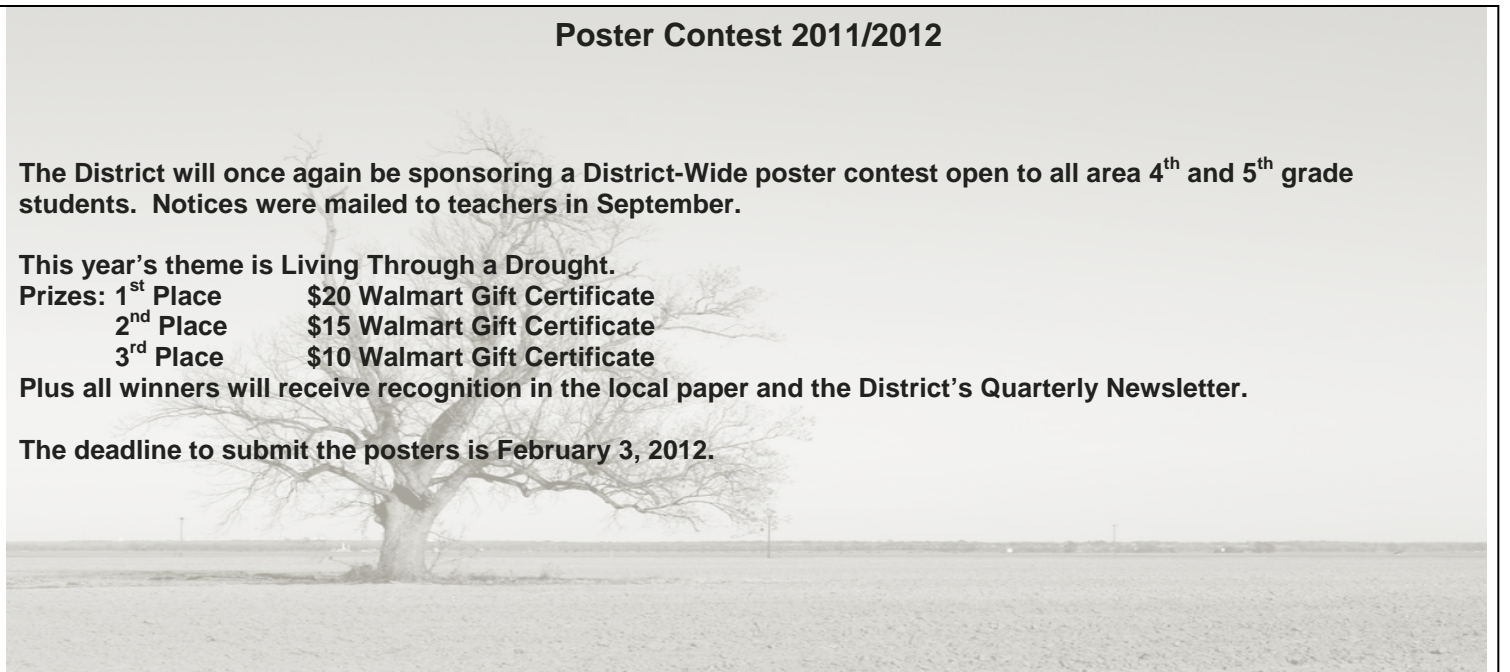
The District will once again be sponsoring a District-Wide poster contest open to all area 4th and 5th grade students. Notices were mailed to teachers in September.

This year's theme is Living Through a Drought.

Prizes: 1st Place \$20 Walmart Gift Certificate
 2nd Place \$15 Walmart Gift Certificate
 3rd Place \$10 Walmart Gift Certificate

Plus all winners will receive recognition in the local paper and the District's Quarterly Newsletter.

The deadline to submit the posters is February 3, 2012.



Hickory UWCD No. 1

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All the water that will ever
 be is, right now.

National Geographic,
 October 1993



Water Level Time Again

You might see our lab/field tech, Ronnie Moore, out in the country in the next few weeks. It's time again for water level measurements. We should have a report ready by the end of November. You can see spring water levels on our website:

<http://www.hickoryuwcd.org/waterlevels2011.html>



Do you need to have your water tested?

And speaking of Ronnie Moore, when is the last time you had your water tested? If you are using a domestic well and haven't had it tested in year, you might consider contacting the District to have your water tested. The service is FREE if you live in the District. You can pick up the containers at the District Office on the square in Brady. If you don't feel comfortable drawing the sample yourself, one of the staff can draw it for you. We run water samples Monday through Thursday. We don't test on Friday because bacteria tests require a 24-hour incubation period.

So what do we test for?

Coliform Bacteria: Coliform bacteria are a commonly used bacterial indicator of sanitary quality of foods and water. While coliforms are themselves not normally causes of serious illness, they are easy to culture and their presence is used to indicate that other pathogenic organisms of faecal origin may be present.

E. Coli and fecal coliform bacterium: These two are as nasty as they sound and can make you very sick. Virulent strains of *E. coli* can cause gastroenteritis, urinary tract infections, and neonatal meningitis. Large quantities of fecal coliform bacteria in water are not harmful according to some authorities, but may indicate a higher risk of pathogens being present in the water. Some waterborne pathogenic diseases that may coincide with fecal coliform contamination include ear infections, dysentery, typhoid fever, viral and bacterial gastroenteritis, and hepatitis A.

Total Dissolved Solids (TDS): TDS, as it is commonly known, is the concentration of all dissolved minerals in water. It is the direct measurement of the interaction between minerals and ground water.

Conductivity: Conductivity in water is affected by the presence of inorganic dissolved solids such as chloride, nitrate, sulfate, and phosphate anions (ions that carry a negative charge) or sodium, magnesium, calcium, iron, and aluminum cations (ions that carry a positive charge).

pH: The pH scale measures how acidic or basic a substance is. It ranges from 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is neutral. A pH less than 7 is acidic, and a pH greater than 7 is basic.

Iron: Iron in well water usually does not present a health problem. Iron may present some concern if certain bacteria have entered a well, since some pathogenic (harmful) organisms require iron to grow, and the presence of iron particles makes elimination of the bacteria more difficult. Iron in water can cause yellow, red, or brown stains on laundry, dishes, and plumbing fixtures. The Maximum Contaminant Level is 0.3 mg/L.

Nitrates: Nitrates are nitrogen-oxygen chemical units that combine with various organic and inorganic compounds. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has a maximum contaminant level for nitrates at 10 mg/L. High levels of nitrates can cause health problems, including methemoglobinemia, commonly known as "blue baby syndrome."

Sulfates: Sulfate is a substance that occurs naturally in drinking water. Health concerns regarding sulfate in drinking water have been raised because of reports that diarrhea may be associated with the ingestion of water containing high levels of sulfate. The Maximum Contaminant Level is 300 mg/L.

Chlorides: The standard is 300 mg/L. High levels in combination with sodium can give water a salty taste and may increase corrosiveness.

Hardness: The most common problem associated with ground water may be hardness, generally associated with an abundance of calcium and/or magnesium dissolved in the water.