



White City Water Improvement District

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GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

October 2023

The Changing of the Seasons

With the coming of October, the weather is gradually changing from the heat of summer toward the cold of winter. Autumn is a transition period when one day the sun will be shining and temperatures can rise to the 80s, where another day can see the falling of snow and temperatures dropping toward the 30s. Personally, autumn is my favorite time of the year because you never quite know what you are going to get from one day to another. I don't even mind the extra work that I must engage in to prepare my home and vehicles for winter and freezing temperatures.

When it comes to getting ready for winter, please remember your outdoor watering systems. In that regard, we have put together a short checklist for you to review as you "winterize" your water system.

- Remove your hoses from the hose bibs, then drain and store hoses after each use in a basement, garage, or shed.
- Turn off your sprinkling system -- don't just turn off the timers.
- Turn off the "stop and waste" valve, shutting off the flow of water to your sprinkler system. It is usually located between the meter and the house, or in the basement.
- Know where your main water shut off valve is in case you experience frozen pipes that will require you to shut off water until they can be repaired.
- Please keep water meter lids free of debris, leaves, etc. Although we have converted all our residential water meters to radio read meters, it is still important to maintain access to the meters for the water system's employees in case of problems or need of repair.
- Please keep water meter lids closed tightly to avoid freezing.
- If a fire hydrant is in front of your house, please keep it visible and accessible during winter by shoveling snow away from it during winter snow falls. This is true even when the snowplow trucks push snow up against it. It takes effort but is necessary in case of fire. If you have a neighbor that needs help on this matter, lend a helping hand.

After you turn off your sprinklers, periodically inspect your yard and lawn area and look for green growing grass and soft spongy areas to identify possible leaks.

If you have any questions about this list or want other tips on preparing your water system for winter, **please contact our Operations Staff by calling 571-3991.**

WCWID Equal Pay Applications Due by October 31, 2023

October is the month that WCWID has open enrollment for the equal pay program for water service.

For those of you who are not familiar with this program, a property owner/customer can fill out an application to have WCWID average out the water bills for the year. This takes into consideration other factors such as rate increases and other matters, to then bill the property owner/customer the same amount per month. Bills will still reflect actual water usage and what credits are accruing in favor of the property owner during the low water use months (late fall and winter), which credits will be used to mitigate the higher costs during the high-water user months (summer). If the estimate is too high, the property owner/customer can request an overpayment refund or simply roll it over to the next year with a lower equal pay amount. On the other hand, if the estimated equal payment is too low, and there is a balance owing, this will require an increase to the equal pay amount to ensure a zero balance is being maintained.

WCWID staff does its best in calculating the equal pay amounts but, as you can imagine, it is more of a challenge now that WCWID has had to adopt progressive tier water rates for usage above 5,000 gallons per month as required by state water conservation statutes. Nonetheless, our customers have been very understanding and if you desire to participate in the equal pay program please review the green handout accompanying this newsletter.

WCWID's Bond Projects Are Moving Forward

Construction of WCWID's new Two Million Gallon water storage tank is moving forward with the site being fully excavated and concrete being put into place. The pre-stressed concrete water storage tank, when completed will be underground at the same elevation of WCWID's Three Million Water tank located next to it. By having both tanks on the same site and elevation, WCWID will have significantly improved the water system as overall water storage capacity will exceed state minimum requirements. Further, when it becomes necessary to drain one of the tanks for inspection and maintenance (recommended at 5-year intervals), the other tank will be in place to meet the state water storage requirements. In addition, WCWID new seismically enhanced water main connecting the upper water storage tanks to the water system is scheduled for installation starting this fall and will be completed next year. We will keep you informed on the progress of the projects.

