

SERVING THE
WEST SLOPE
NEIGHBORHOOD
SINCE 1922

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM
Wednesday, May 19
- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Budget Hearing &
Meeting; 5 PM, Wednes-
day, June 16
- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM,
Wednesday, July 21

What's Happening in the District?

Our door may say "Closed", but we have been working in the office and in the field through the pandemic. We are just restricting access into our office.

If you need us, call, email or knock on the door and we'll come

Contact Us !

3105 SW 89th Ave.
(503) 292-2777

On the web at:
www.wswd.org

Email: customer.service@wswd.org

Please share with us what you think of the newsletter and its effectiveness to provide information to you ... we want to hear from you! Call us and leave a message or send an email.



Volume 2 Issue 2

April 2021

The Increasing Cost of Maintaining A Public Water System

The headline of this article is the answer to a question you might have this summer: "Why did my water rate increase and why is my water bill a few dollars higher this month?" There is no denial that the cost of operating and maintaining a water system increases each year. The cost of equipment like copper pipe, water meters, and valves has increased. Fuel for vehicles, sand and gravel for installing pipe, asphalt for repairing roads we dig and other materials have increased annually. Personnel costs for salary and health insurance continue to increase as well. In 2020 because of the pandemic and its impact to the economy and individual families, the District chose to keep water rates the same as in 2019 even though costs increased.

To manage higher costs with a static water rate, the Dis-



trict opted to defer some expenses where possible including District employee salaries. While it is a viable short term option, deferring tasks and their associated costs is not a sustainable practice. When pipe

breaks, we fix and repair it. When a service line between our main and a customer's meter springs a leak (see photo) we replace it. We also have big projects to complete, too. Replacing a water main on Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy will cost over \$2 million. In the next few years, through rates we will pay for our share of the water treatment plant our water supplier is building. We have many other projects ahead to keep this water system operating at it most efficient and economical best. We thank you for your continued support !!!



Water Main Project Update—Beaverton-Hillsdale Hwy



The District is currently working with AKS Engineering & Forestry on the design of new water main to be installed on Beaverton Hillsdale Hwy between SW 91st Avenue and SW Scholls Ferry Road. We have a lot of tasks to complete before we start construction in late Fall 2021. But the existing pipe under the high-

way is old, is subject to water main breaks, and is buried much deeper than modern pipe is buried which creates safety risks for our staff. The July issue will have more information on the schedule of the project! Thank you!

Third in a Series of Four: “Ways to Make Emergency Water Safe to Drink”

Most water can be treated by boiling, disinfecting, filtering, purifying, or distilling it. Regardless of the method that you use, make sure that the container(s) you use to treat and store your drinking water in are sanitized. Here are step-by-step instructions for how to do each of these processes:

Boil Water for At Least One Minute

Boiling is the best method to make water safe to drink because it kills disease-causing organisms, including viruses, bacteria, and parasites. Be sure to strain your water before boiling it if your water is cloudy or has particles in it. You can do this by pouring your water through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.

1. Place water in a clean pot or other container in which you can use to boil water safely.
2. Bring water to a rolling boil for at least one minute.
3. Let cool, then use.
4. Store the boiled water in clean sanitized containers with tight covers for up to a week.

You can improve the flat taste of boiled water by pouring it from one clean container to another and then allowing it to stand for a few hours, or by adding a pinch of salt for each quart or liter of boiled water.

Do not boil water that you suspect might be contaminated with cyanotoxins from harmful algae blooms, fuel, heavy metals, lead, or toxic chemicals. Boiling this water will actually concentrate the contaminants. Find another source of water.

Disinfect Water with Household Bleach

If you don't have safe bottled water and if boiling is not practical, you often can make small quantities of water safe to drink by using unscented household chlorine bleach. Chemical disinfectants like bleach can kill most harmful or disease-causing viruses and bacteria but are not as effective in controlling more resistant organisms such as the parasites *Giardia* and *Cryptosporidium*.

Here's how to do it:

1. Place water in a clean container. If water is cloudy or has particles in it, be sure to strain it before treating it. You can do this by pouring your water through a clean cloth, paper towel, or coffee filter.
2. Add unscented liquid household chlorine bleach* to your water. For clear water, add 1/8 teaspoon (8 drops or about 0.75 milliliters) of bleach for each gallon (16 cups) of water. For cloudy water, add ¼ teaspoon or 16 drops of bleach per gallon.
3. Mix well and let sit for 30 minutes before using. If you cannot detect a slight chlorine odor after letting it stand for 30 minutes, then repeat the process. If you still do not detect a slight chlorine odor after the second treatment, discard that water and find another source. Bleach potency diminishes with time, so store a bottle with your emergency water supply and replace on the same schedule as your stored water.
4. Disinfected water can be used for one week if stored in a clean, closed container.

* Sodium hypochlorite (concentration 5.25% to 6%) should be the only active ingredient in the bleach. There should be no added soap or fragrance. Add 8 drops 5.25% bleach to a gallon of water. If the water is cloudy, colored or murky, add 16 drops instead. Please visit www.regionalh2o.org for “how to” videos and more information on emergency preparedness

