

SERVING THE
WEST SLOPE
NEIGHBORHOOD
SINCE 1922

Upcoming Meetings

- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM
Wednesday, Feb 16
- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM,
Wednesday, March 16
- Board of Commissioners
Virtual Meeting; 5 PM,
Wednesday, April 20

What's Happening in the District?

Our door is open to walk in customers with masks to pay bills and request service. District Board meetings will be held virtually into 2022. Thank you

Do you need any assistance with the District's On-Line Bill Pay service? Please contact us at customer.Service@wswd.org

Contact Us !

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

On the web at:
www.wswd.org

Email: customer.service@wswd.org

We are currently recruiting for the District's Finance and Customer Service Manager as our current manager, Lucy Dawes is retiring. For more info, go to www.wswd.org.



Volume 3 Issue 1

January-March 2022

Annual Meter Box Maintenance Starting in West Slope

Each year, West Slope Water District visits every water meter in the District to clean the area around the meter box as well as open the lid to clean out mud and remove water from inside the box.



We start that work in the late winter and early spring when the heavy rains begin to taper off. When we do this work, sometimes we find small leaks on the customer side of the meter that fill the meter box with water. As soon as we see it, we let you know about it. Why do we spend this time cleaning out a

meter box that is ALREADY buried in the ground? Water meters that are buried in mud or are underwater after the winter rains can be hard to read with our drive-by radio read technology. Also, we have found that meters that are not buried in mud and water for extended periods of time tend to have a longer life. West Slope field crew will also start trimming grass, weeds, and other plants from growing around and over the meter boxes this spring. Having clear access to the meters is very important to being able to maintain and read the meters. Many West Slope customers will find their meter in their front lawn near a driveway or sidewalk. Some meters may appear to be quite a distance from the street and located on private property. But in reality, eve-

ry meter box is located within the public right-of-way so West Slope staff are not intruding on private property. So, how can you help? Please make sure your shrubs and other plants are cut back from the meter box like in the photo below. Don't bury the box under landscaping fabric, statues,



rocks, mulch or bark dust. When we have cleaned the box out, we will mark the pavement with a blue paint dot to help us locate the box throughout the year. Thank you for your help !!

Water is Running Down the Street ... Is That OK?!



Well, unless it is raining, water running down the street where it usually doesn't run is often a problem. Sometimes, a water main in the distribution system breaks. In the winter, the ground will expand and contract as it gets cold then warms again. A typical break like in the photo to the left can be fixed with a compression sleeve. The hard part is finding the actual break underground. If you see water where it usually isn't, call us immediately and we will check it out. Sometimes the service lines to homes break in the same cold weather. Again, call us if you see water on your side of the meter. We'll be at your home to turn off the water while your repairs are made and then we'll turn it back on again for you.

Learn How to Winterize Your Home Now!

Before Winter

Know where your emergency water shut-off valve is located and teach everyone in your household where it is and how to turn off the water. Most shut-off valves are located in the crawl space, basement, garage, or outside near the foundation of single-family residential homes. If a pipe bursts inside your home during the winter, this valve will turn the water off. Disconnect and drain hoses from outside faucets and turn them off if they have their own shut-off valve. This type of shut-off valve is typically located in the basement or crawl space. If your home does not have an outdoor faucet shut-off valve, be sure to empty the water lines to your faucet by turning on each outdoor faucet after you've closed the shut-off valve. If your home does not have a separate shut-off for outside faucets, then you'll need to insulate each spigot with a foam cap or another insulating material like newspaper.

Turn off and drain automatic sprinkler systems and backflow assembly devices. Wrap back-flow devices with insulating material. Insulate hot and cold pipes that are located in unheated areas in your home such as the garage, crawl space, or attic. Cover foundation vents with foam blocks, thickly folded newspaper, or cardboard.

During Winter

If you haven't already – make sure you complete the “Before Winter” steps above. Locate your emergency water shut-off valve, keep your pipes safe and insulated, cover foundation vents, and disconnect and drain outdoor hoses, sprinkler systems, and backflow devices. When temperatures dip below freezing, temporarily turn on your faucet located furthest from your water meter so that it has a slow and steady drip – this will keep water moving and make it less likely to freeze in your pipes.

Periodically open cupboard doors in the kitchen and bathroom to allow pipes behind the walls and under the floors to get additional heat from inside your house.

Think you have a frozen pipe? Here's how to tell if you do:

Turn on faucets located throughout your home; if some of them work and others do not, it is likely that you have a frozen pipe. If there is no water to your home, it is likely that the issue may be at the street and you should notify West Slope Water District so we can locate the break or frozen pipe.

Thawing frozen pipes:

To thaw plumbing lines safely, use a hair dryer on a low setting. Move the hair dryer back and forth, moving in 12” – 16” sections until water flows freely from the affected tap. NEVER thaw a frozen pipe with an open flame. Remember to leave a little water on once the pipe has thawed so that it doesn't refreeze. Turn on the faucet(s) in your home to a steady, slow drip to keep water moving through your pipes.

Repairing a broken water pipe:

If your burst pipe is located in or around your home, then it is your responsibility to repair the pipe. If the break is at the street, contact West Slope at (503) 292-2777 and we will come and repair it.