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Dates to Remember!

Denver Metro Water Festival

Hosted by Denver Water, the Suburban Distributors of Denver Water, and the One World One Water Center at Metropolitan State University of Denver, the Denver Metro Water Festival is a unique opportunity to provide unbiased water-related education to sixth graders in Denver Water's extended service area.

The festival offers engaging, hands-on lessons and activities to:

Encourage students to take an active role in water conservation, provide students with the tools they need to bring wise water use to their communities, and complement classroom water units by addressing Colorado Academic Standards, particularly for science.

This annual festival is a community event for metro area students and an opportunity for individuals and organizations throughout the state to participate through presentations, volunteerism and sponsorships.

Jefferson County Schools located in the District have participated in this valuable program in past years. This year's Festival will be held on Friday, **May 16, 2018**.

**DENVER
METRO
FESTIVAL
WATER**

World Water Day

What is World Water Day?

World Water Day, on the 22nd of March every year, is about focusing attention on the importance of water. The theme for World Water Day 2018 is 'Nature for Water' – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges we face in the 21st century.

Damaged ecosystems affect the quantity and quality of water available for human consumption. Today, 2.1 billion people live without safe drinking water at home; affecting their health, education and livelihoods.

Sustainable Development Goal six commits the world to ensuring that everyone has access to safe water by 2030, and includes targets on protecting the natural environment and reducing pollution.

Wherever you are and whatever you do on March 22, take action! Make it about nature and water.



Water Rates to Rise March 1st

In November 2017, the Denver Board of Water Commissioners adopted rate changes to fund essential repairs and upgrades to Denver Water's system, beginning March 1, 2018.

There are 143 major projects identified in Denver Water's capital plan. With rapidly changing technology, aging infrastructure, new regulations and a warming climate, we need to continue to invest in the water system. These projects and the expenses associated with day-to-day operations and unplanned work, like water main breaks, are funded by water rates, bond sales, cash reserves, hydropower sales and fees for new service.

To keep water affordable and to encourage efficiency, Denver Water's rate structure includes three tiers based on how much water you use. Indoor water use – essential for human life, and is charged at the lowest rate. Efficient outdoor water use is charged in the second tier (middle rate), followed by inefficient outdoor water use in the third tier (highest rate).

In addition to variable charges based on water use, the rate structure also includes a monthly fixed charge based on the size of your water meter.

How will this impact my bill?

In 2018, every customer will see an increase to their monthly fixed charge. If you're like most residential customers who have a 3/4-inch meter, that charge will increase from \$11.86 to \$15.39 per month.

To help offset the increased fixed monthly charge, the monthly rate per 1,000 gallons for many customers will decrease in 2018.

Adding up those two elements, if you live in SW Metro District and use 84,000 gallons of water in 2018 in the same way you did in 2017, you can expect to see an annual increase of about \$14, which averages out to an increase of about \$1.17 per month.

Why is Denver Water raising rates?

Denver Water employees work around the clock to run a large, intricate system that spans 12 counties across Colorado. With a five-year, \$1.25 billion capital plan, we're staying on top of the upgrades and new projects needed

to keep the system running.

To keep up with this necessary work, Denver Water is increasing the monthly fixed charge on your bill to help us balance revenue over the year so we can repair and upgrade thier system. This means Denver Water is relying less on revenue from customers' water use.

Being water efficient can definitely help your bill. It is important to always use water efficiently in all circumstances.

Why would it be higher?

The rates would be higher because we would have to build more treatment and distribution facilities to keep up with the demand. For example, customer conservation efforts saved Denver Water an estimated \$155 million on a new treatment plant and storage facility because it doesn't have to be as big as originally estimated. That's \$155 million they don't have to recover through rates and charges. No one likes paying higher bills, but consider the overall value of water – most SW Metro customers will still pay about \$3 for 1,000 gallons of water.

Average water bill (based on 84,000 gal annually)	2017	2018	Monthly Increase	Annual Increase
Inside City	\$420	\$434	\$1.17	\$14
Read & Bill	\$434	\$459	\$2.09	\$25
Total Service	\$501	\$547	\$3.79	\$46

If you'd like to talk over your bill with someone, please contact Denver Water's Customer Care team at 303-893-2444, where a representative will help you calculate your individual bill impacts, based on your personal water-use information.

Want to Recieve Your Newsletter Electronically?

The District is now offering a new way to receive our quarterly Newsletter! The e-newsletter will be sent out in a PDF version at the time our paperback newsletters get sent. This system will not flood your inbox with emails, you will only receive emails every quarter when our Newsletter goes out. Your information will be kept private and you may unsubscribe at any time to start receiving the mailed Newsletter once again. We hope this option serves District customers well, informing you of District happenings in a convenient new way. If you have any questions regarding the e-newsletter, you can call Tayler Newkirk at our district office, 303-979-2333.

To start receiving your Newsletter electronically, send us an email following these simple steps:

- 1**
"To" field:
info@swmetrowater.org
- 2**
"Subject" field:
"E-Newsletter Sign Up"
- 3**
"Message" field: Your name &
address where you
receive the mailed Newsletter.



Patrick Fitzgerald, 44 years with Platte Canyon

Pat Fitzgerald started working for Platte Canyon in March 1974. Believe it or not, Pat started out as a maintenance operator cleaning sewers with just one other employee. In just two short years Pat's hard work in the field paid off and he became the District Manager for Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District.

Before Pat came to work for Platte Canyon he was a maintenance worker for Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District, just north of Platte Canyon District. His father worked for Lakehurst and Pat needed a job for the time being so he worked there for six months until he was offered a position with Platte Canyon. When asking Pat what he remembers about his first months with Platte Canyon, he said he will never forget learning how to drive the manual work truck. He had no idea how to drive stick shift, but also had no choice but to learn how to drive it, considering it was the only work truck the District had at that time. It was definitely something he won't forget.

Pat has been with the district longer than anyone so when asked what the biggest change is he has seen through his time here, his answer was no surprise. He said the expansion all around has amazed him. From 300 customers to over 7,000 just in Platte Canyon District alone is astonishing.

Being the district manager Pat certainly has challenging moments, but the good definitely outweighs the bad. Pat is very proud of where the District is and what it represents. He feels very lucky to be a part of Platte Canyon. Some of his favorite things about being the District Manager at Platte Canyon is the freedom he is granted from the Board of Directors to operate without being micromanaged. He feels lucky to have such an honest and trustworthy relationship with the board members. He loves that he is involved with so many other districts and the partnerships and relationships he has made throughout the years is certainly a positive.

Pat did face challenges along the way in his 44 years at the District. Planning for growth was Pat's biggest challenge he came face to face with. Being



responsible in making sure water and wastewater is available was and still is one of Pat's challenges. Being a government entity, Pat has to deal with regulations and amendments. Increasing of federal and state regulations undeniably make providing water much more difficult and far more costly. When the TABOR amendment passed almost 20 years ago, Pat struggled with the changes. TABOR was a restriction on taxes and it made it hard to generate revenue, especially for local water and wastewater Districts. Beyond the challenges Pat faced throughout the years he wouldn't want to have it any other way. The challenges are what have made his career so rewarding.

He encourages anyone looking into water/wastewater careers to go for it! The opportunities are endless in a profession as such. From administrative to management to operations, there are multiple roles in this career choice. Pat says the great thing about water/wastewater is they will always be around. It is a critical public service and although it brings challenges it surely brings twice as many rewards.

While Pat tends to spend his time at work he does have some hobbies. Pat enjoys motorcycles and riding his Harley on his free time. He is an avid reader and enjoys history and non-fiction novels. He also adores spending as much time as he can with his three grandchildren. His daughter who lives in California has two children and his son who lives close by just welcomed a baby boy this January.

Pat has accomplished great things in his 44 years at the District and he will continue to provide public service to the wonderful customers of Platte Canyon. From all of us at Platte Canyon, we want to say Congratulations on your years here at Platte Canyon, Pat!



IT'S FIX-A-LEAK WEEK!

Are you ready to chase down leaks? Household leaks can waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually nationwide, so each year we hunt down the drips during Fix a Leak Week. Mark your calendars for EPA's tenth annual Fix a Leak Week, March 19 through 25, 2018—but remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long. Learn how to find and fix leaks during Fix a Leak Week. To get more information about Fix-a-leak-week go to the EPA website: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week>.

Common types of leaks found in the home are worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and other leaking valves. These types of leaks are often easy to fix, requiring only a few tools & hardware that can pay for themselves in water savings.

Fixing easily corrected household water leaks can save homeowners about 10 percent on their water bills. To check for leaks in your home, you first need to determine whether you're wasting water & then identify the source of the leak.

Here are some tips for finding leaks: Take a look at your water usage during a colder month. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks. Check your water meter before & after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak. Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Flush immediately after to avoid staining) Examine faucet gaskets & pipe fittings for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.



Capital Improvement Projects for 2018

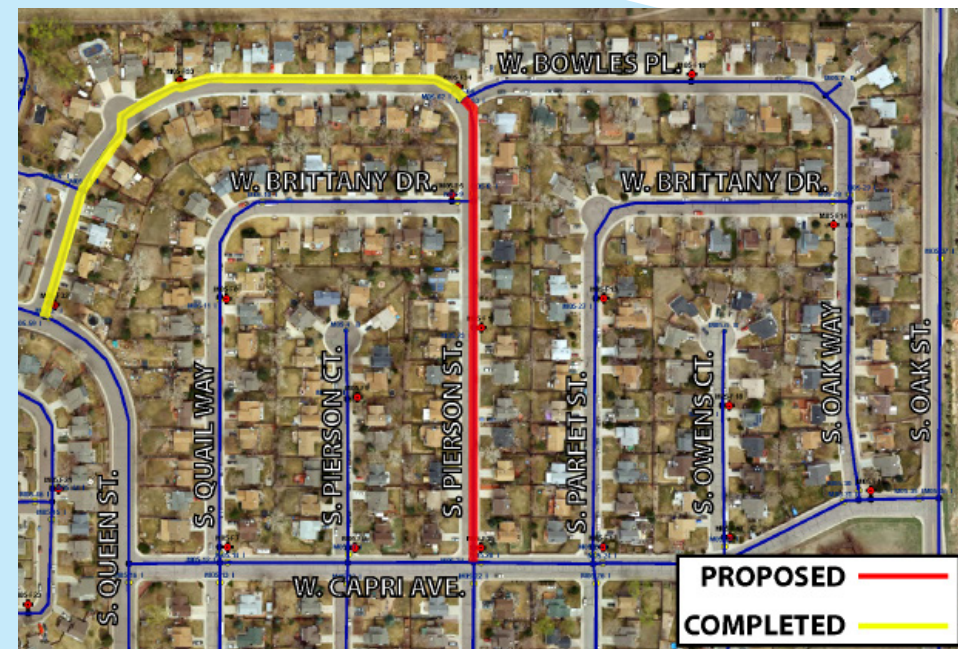
The District's capital construction season is almost here! The 2018 Capital Improvement program consists of four projects with a proposed expenditure of \$740,000. The following projects are currently being designed with estimated construction dates beginning in Spring and Summer.



- Powderhorn Subdivision Pipe Replacement - This project will be replacing 945 feet of 8-inch ductile iron pipe with 945 feet of 8-inch, C-900 DR 14 PVC pipe that was originally installed in 1985. This is located on S. Pierson St. between W. Bowles Pl. and W. Capri Ave.
- Woodmar Village Subdivision - Located on S. Wadsworth Blvd. and W. Peakview Ave., this project consists of abandoning a 10-inch water main on the west side of S. Wadsworth Blvd. and transferring cross street connections to a parallel 16-inch water main at W. Peakview Ave.
- Kipling Villas Subdivision - This project will be on W. Parkhill Ave. and S. Garland St. This will consist of replacing 228 feet of 12-inch vitrified clay pipe with 12-inch C900 PVC pipe. This pipeline is a sewer maintenance problem which requires cleaning every three months. An inclination survey was conducted and staff identified there is a reverse flow causing the flows to back up several reaches of sewer pipe. Re-laying the entire run at proper grade will eliminate this problem and the need for extensive visits to maintain normal operation of the sewer.
- Equipment Replacement - Components of the District's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA). The current SCADA circuit communicates utilizing analog two-wire technology. Continuous problems maintaining constant connections is getting more difficult and personnel that know how to work on the system are retiring making it near impossible for repairs. Also, the controllers are very old and cannot support newer software and faster communication capabilities today.

If you would like more information on the 2018 Improvement Projects, you can find the Capital Master Plan on our website: http://www.swmetrowater.org/page.cfm/ID/11/District_Projects or call the Districts Project Coordinator, Tony Cocozzella, 720-726-5030.

Below is the Pipe Replacement in Powderhorn Subdivision where you can see what has been completed (in yellow) and what needs to still be replaced (in red)



SW Metro Surcharge Raised

You may have noticed that your January water bill from Denver Water included an increase in the service charge from \$3.00 per month assessed in 2017 to \$5.00 being charged in 2018.

As the Southwest Metropolitan Board of Directors considered the 2018 budget and capital master plan, it was obvious that revenue derived from the service fee was not significantly narrowing the gap between operating expenses and revenues. When the service fee was initiated in 2014, District operating expenses exceeded revenues by \$1.0 million per year. The situation resulted from a large reduction in investment revenue due to the drop in interest rates beginning in 2009, and a planned \$12 million decrease in the District's invested reserves resulting from expenditures made for rehabilitation of critical Interceptor sewer mains. The combination of these events reduced District revenues well below operating costs and projected capital expenditures. The service fee was instituted as the most effective, equitable and least costly way to produce the necessary revenue.

As the District directors considered raising the service fee in 2018, they were reminded that District customers were charged nothing prior to 2014 for the valuable water distribution and wastewater collection services they receive. In addition, the \$3.00 per month service fee was less than 25% of what similarly situated districts are charging for like services. The Board of Directors expressed a need to increase revenue from the service charge to a level that matches operating expenses within five years. The \$2.00 per month increase in 2018 is the first step in this process. The health and welfare of Southwest residents relies heavily on the District's ability to deliver clean water at adequate pressure, and remove wastewater in a reliable, cost effective manner. As District assets age, the need for maintenance of existing facilities and replacement of other assets will become increasingly important.

The District will be happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have about the surcharge. Please call us at 303-979-2333.

