

STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

Marine View Drive Water Main

In February King County Water District #54 completed the 12" Ductile Iron Water Main on Marine View Drive from South 219th Street to South 227th St. This will improve fire flows and insure Downtown is provided a more reliable delivery system well into the 21st century. In the future the District will move the meter services for the businesses on the west side of Marine View Drive from the alley to the front of the buildings. Moving

the meter services will allow the District to abandon the 6" water main in the alley between Marine View Drive and 7th Avenue South. The older pipe line is in a bad location and is one of the older pipelines in the District.

This Project was funded through a \$486,000 grant acquired by the City of Des Moines and the Water District issuing bonds of \$1.5 million. The Bonds will be paid in twenty years.

Well 6 & Booster Station Improvements

When the lower ground water reservoir was built in 2003 well 6 was not piped to fill that reservoir. We are designing well 6 to deliver water to the lower reservoir along with some booster pump modifications so we can take the elevated reservoir offline for maintenance inside of the reservoir.

This project will include installation of a meter in the booster station and a control valve in a vault

next to well 6 to monitor its production and flow.

When this work is complete we can run the system from a pressure control standpoint, which will allow us to empty the elevated reservoir to perform general maintenance on the inside and repair the emergency overflow pipe.

Billing and Payment Policy

King County Water District #54 reads meters and bills for all water services bi-monthly.

Meters are read during the third or fourth week of a billing cycle. Statements are issued via the mail to customers on the last day of the month. Statements are issued on postcards. Bills are due within 30 days of the statement issuance date, typically the end of the following month.

Incomplete or no payment, following the 30 day grace period, will result in a late fee of 10% of the outstanding amount being

assessed. This assessment will appear on the following statement. This assessment will also trigger a shorter grace period for that statement. Should the statement not be paid in full (both old and new charges) within 10 days, the delinquency process will commence. The delinquency process includes other forms of notice, fees being assessed, and could eventually result in water being turned off.

All payments are the responsibility of the current property owner.

Should a property owner wish to designate someone else to receive the bill, they may do so by contacting the District office. Should a special reading or statement be desired, contact the District about options available and fees assessed, if any.

If you have questions about your statement or District billing policy, please call or drop by the District office.

A silent leak in a toilet can waste from 200-500 gallons of water per DAY.

Water Quality

All publicly owned water systems are required by State Law to send annual reports regarding the quality of their water. The State Department of Health requires all publicly owned water system to undergo rigorous testing and provide those results to their customer annually. These reports must be delivered to the users before July of the following year. King County Water District #54 meets all of these state requirements and we are proud to let you know.

If you missed the Water Quality Report that was sent last July, stop by the office and pick up another copy.

Winterize Your Pipes

Don't let cold weather catch you unprepared. Every winter, there are home owners who face the expense and inconvenience of frozen water pipes. Taking precautions now can help you avoid this problem.

Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses.... Detaching the hose allows water to drain from the faucet. Otherwise, a single hard, overnight freeze can burst either the faucet or the pipe. If the hose is not drained, it can split and be damaged.

Insulate exposed pipes and faucets.... Outdoor faucets and pipes, and pipes in unheated attics, garages and crawl spaces are most vulnerable to freezing. Hardware and building supply stores have good pipe and faucet insulating materials available. In a pinch, wrap pipes and outdoor faucets with thick

layer of newspaper or rags and cover with plastic.

Find the master shutoff valve.... Be sure everyone in the family knows where it is and how to shut it off. If a pipe bursts anywhere in the house—kitchen, bath, basement or crawl space—this valve will need to be turned off.

What if you wake up one morning and despite your best efforts your pipes are frozen? Have your plumber's telephone number handy! If you want to try thawing the pipes yourself, wrap the frozen pipe section with rags or towels and pour hot water over it or use a hair dryer. NEVER use an open flame! Besides the danger of catching the surrounding area on fire, the excessive heat can cause the water to

thaw to quickly bursting the pipe.

Be aware that the frozen pipe may already be broken. If that is the case, as soon as it is thawed, water will come gushing out. Be ready to shut off the master shutoff valve to minimize the damage.

If you are planning a long trip, you may want to turn your water totally off. Turn off the master shutoff valve first. Drain the pipes by opening a faucet at each end of the plumbing system until water stops running. Turn the faucet off again when finished draining. To protect your water heater, it is recommended that you shut off power to the water heater before draining the plumbing system.

Cross Connection

We are all aware of contaminants that can pollute our drinking water. Did you know that you could possibly contaminate the drinking water simply by leaving your garden hose submerged in a bucket? This is called a cross connection.

What is a cross connection? A cross-connection is a permanent or temporary piping arrangement, which can allow your water to be contaminated if a backflow condition occurs.

What is a backflow? It's just what it sounds like: the water is flowing in the opposite direction from its normal flow. With the direction of flow reversed, due to changes in pressures, backflow can allow contaminants to enter our drinking water system through cross-connection. Backflow is caused by negative pressure (i.e., a vacuum or partial vacuum) in a public water system or consumers drinking water system. This affect is similar to drinking water through a straw. Backflow can occur when there is a stoppage or a severe decrease of supply water due to fire suppression efforts or a break in the water main.

A Little History

King County Water District #54 was formed by petition of the citizens of the community and presented to the King County Board of Commissioners. A special election was scheduled for June 1935. The results of this election were 108 for the formation of the Water District and with 43 votes not to form the District.

After the vote to form the District, it needed to be determined where the well and reservoir would be built. The first

well was constructed across the street from the current District office. A 60,000 gallon reservoir made of wood was installed on the same site. The well was to deliver 150 gallons a minute, with the piping made of steel ranging from 3-6 inches in diameter. Well 1 provided water to the community but in January 1945 the District was experiencing problems with that well and decided to drill another

well adjacent to the original well, and in January of 1946 well 2 was drilled to pump 300 gallons a minute.

Wells 1, 2, & 3 have been retired. The District has four active wells, 4, 5, 6 & 7. Well 4 produces less than what it once did. It now only pumps as a supplement to the other wells. At it's peak performance it pumped over 600 gallons a minute. The other remaining wells all pump above 300 gallons per minute.

Meet your Board and District Staff

Your Water District has 3 staff member and 3 elected Water District Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners set policy, review and set rates, approve all expenses, and capital improvement projects. Commissioner's serve 6 year terms with each office opening every other year.

Your Board:

John Rayback is a semi-retired attorney and a lifelong resident of Des Moines. He was appointed by the Board of Commissioners in January of 2001 and subsequently elected in November of 2001 and re-elected in 2007.

Alli Larkin was elected in 2004 and serves as the Board

President. She recently received an award for Commissioner Accreditation, completing Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) Leadership Development Program. She attends WASWD Board meetings which monitors and represents Sewer and Water District's Legislative issues in Olympia.

Vic Pennington is the most recent addition to the Board, He was elected in November 2011 and serves as the Board Secretary. Vic has been a resident of Des Moines nearly fifty years. His full time job is Deputy Fire Chief for your local fire department where he has worked for 38 years.

"Our Water District is a very unique and wonderful district; our staff is extremely dedicated to the district and a pleasure to work with. I am honored and proud to be your commissioner representing you the rate payers and citizens of Water District #54."

District Staff:

Eric Clarke is the Manager of the District and started working in the water field in 1984. He has worked for District #54 since 2001. His education is Water Distribution Mgr. 3 and Cross Connection Control Specialist.

Patti Clayton is the Office Manager and she too started

working for the District in 2001. If you come into the office to pay your bill she is the most likely one you'll see. She lives in the District and is a very dedicated employee.

Grant Erben is the Field Maintenance Technician, you'll see him throughout the community replacing meters, and doing yard maintenance and other water duties. He has a Water Distribution Mgr. 2 and is a Cross Connection Specialist. Grant has worked for the District since 2004.

This winter don't forget to wrap your outside faucet with a towel or Styrofoam cover.

Cross Connection (cont.)

The next time you spray your yard with pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers, be sure to use a hose bib vacuum breaker on the exterior hose bib of your house, and remove the chemical sprayer attached to the end of your garden hose when you're done. This will help prevent contamination.

A hot water faucet dripping 1 drop per second wastes 192 gallons of water and 48 kW/hrs of electricity per month.

Water Conservation: A life-long Stewardship Commitment

Water Conservation is important for us, our environment and for future generations. Because our region receives more rain in the fall, winter and spring months, extra care needs to be taken in summer and early fall months to ensure that there is an adequate supply for sustaining the people, habitats and wildlife that live here.

The Cascade Mountain Range provides much of the

water we use. Each year, water from melting snow and rain is carefully managed so that wildlife and people have what they need. During extremely dry years, this is very challenging.

Regional population growth without conservation will increase water demand and place strains on available limited supplies. Conservation has proven to be very successful in reducing this potential problem over the

short term, but concerted efforts to adopt life-long water savings behaviors will ensure that there is a plentiful supply.

If everybody took advantage of the available resources, capital improvement projects like drilling for new sources (wells) and adding new reservoirs would be delayed. These saving would delay increases in rates.



KING COUNTY WATER DISTRICT NO. 54

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Water District 54 Hours

Office open M-F 8 a.m. till 4 p.m. Answering service available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Board of Commissioner Meetings held 1st and 3rd Tuesdays at 4:00 pm at the District offices.

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Iron and Manganese

Have you ever had dirty water exit your taps? This is a mineral which comes from the ground beneath the surface and is called Manganese. Iron and manganese are natural occurring minerals which tend to be found together under the surface of the ground. These mineral are caused by the rock formations dissolving into the water.

Water District #54 draws its water from deep underground aquifers, which are high in manganese. Your water meets all current Department of Health guidelines. The water from our wells is naturally pure and does not need treatment; the District does not add

chlorine, fluoride or any other additives. Therefore, what you smell and taste is natural.

The water that you consume is well within the Department of Health guidelines, our water is high in iron and manganese. In the traces delivered in the water, they do not cause health hazards, but over time they can cause slight staining of fixtures. Small amounts of iron and manganese are present in the natural waters pumped from our wells, as with many other wells in Western Washington. These minerals can settle in our pipelines and reservoirs over time, until they become dislodged due to higher than

normal water flows. We remove these minerals periodically by flushing the fire hydrants and cleaning the reservoirs. Before delivering the water into the pipelines serving you home, we aerate the water which improves the smell and taste and allows the minerals to settle. We continue to strive to deliver a high quality water at a reasonable cost.



A typical bath requires 30 gallons of water. A shower uses 9 gallons of water per minute