

Brook Forest Water District

www.brookforestwater.org

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JANUARY 2016
FIRST QUARTER NEWSLETTER
Happy New Year!

A Water Augmentation Plan, what is that?

As a result of the many questions as to what the District water can be used for, we thought we provide a bit of information on our Water Augmentation Plan, what it is and what our water can be used for.

A water augmentation plan is a court-approved plan, which is designed to protect existing water rights by replacing water used in a new project. Augmentation plans are usually required in areas where there is a shortage of water during part or all of the year. The District takes all the necessary steps to protect their resource through the appropriate usage of water by residents. District water may be used for indoor use only. Some of the questions we have received during the year from residents with regard to water usage:

1. Question: Can I wash my car?
Answer: No outside watering is permitted.
2. Question: Can I water my lawn or outdoor plants?
Answer: No outside watering is not permitted.
3. Question: I am currently connected to the District's water supply, can I disconnect and begin using a well?
Answer: No use of wells in the District are permitted once the connection is made to the District's water supply.
4. Question: May I provide water to my plants and/or vegetables that I grow inside my house for resale to customers?
Answer: No, if you are using the District water for commercial use, the District needs to be notified and a water meter needs to be installed on your property and read quarterly as are all commercial meters.

Water Main Replacement Project:

As the District's water lines age, we have experienced an increase in the number of main breaks that occur each year as well as an increase in the annual maintenance and repairs that need to be done on these lines. The cost of replacing these lines becomes increasingly more each year as the cost of labor and supplies increases. To replace the water lines for the entire District would be a cost of over \$10 million, so we are going to do one section at a time and spread the cost out over several years. The District's annual budget puts a restraint on what can be afforded with current liquid cash and investment resources, therefore the District seeks out possible grants and loans to supplement the cost of these main replacements.

In 2016, the District anticipates replacing water mains of approximately 1,200 linear feet on Forest Estates, which appears to be needing the most repairs due to multiple main breaks over the past few years. Please keep posted for actual dates and streets that will be affected by construction in future newsletters and on our website.

Winter Time Shut Offs:

If you will be going out of town during the winter months for an extended period of time (at a minimum one quarter, not more than three quarters), you may request that your water be shut off at the street for non-use. The quarterly fee will be \$60 per quarter, equivalent to our Readiness-to-Serve charge (see Appendix A of the District Rules and Regs on our website). In order for our System Operator (Dominic) to shut your water off, all bills owing on the property must be paid prior to any shut off and the property owner must pay the District in advance for the turn off and turn on fee, in the amount as stated in Appendix A of the District Rules and Regs – see Section 8.09 B. of the District Rules and Regs for further information.

New Rates – Just a Reminder:

Please be advised, at the June 2015 Board meeting the Board of Directors approved an increase in certain rates (see attached “Appendix A” of the District Rules and Regulations). The quarterly Water Service Charges (\$120) and Readiness-to-Serve fees (\$60) will remain the same, however please note the main change to the rates is how the **Late Fees** will be charged. Beginning **JULY 1, 2015**, if a payment is made after the first month a \$20 late fee will be assessed and invoiced. If a quarterly invoice is not paid after an additional 30 days, a \$30 additional fee will be assessed and invoiced. If a payment is 90 days delinquent your water will be shut off and additional fees will be assessed. Please review “Appendix A” and if you have any billing questions please call our offices anytime.

The new rate structure has been put into place to encourage on-time payments that our previous penalty structure failed to achieve.

Online Bill Payment is here!:

Due to an increase interest by our customers for the District to offer an online bill payment option you can now go online to our website, brookforestwater.org and follow the links to “Online Payments” in order to pay your bill with a credit card or echeck. There will be a \$2.50 convenience fee that the customer will have to incur if you wish to pay online rather than to pay by check. The \$2.50 fee seems a lot less than getting assessed \$20 for late payment of your quarterly invoice.

District Board Meetings:

Board meetings are always open to the public. They are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm and are held in Room 104 of Buffalo Park Church of the Hills, 28628 Buffalo Park Rd., Evergreen, CO 80439.

Emailing Quarterly Invoices:

As outlined in the previous newsletter, we face growing costs as a result of the recession. It reduced available contractors and materials increasing the demand on shrinking resources with the result being higher costs. There is one thing that each of you can do to help facilitate communications and that is provide Nickie with your email address. We would like to move to emailing the quarterly invoices to each and every one of you. There are three or more ways to provide your email address:

1. Call Nickie at (800)-544-9903
2. Email Nickie at --
brookforestwaterdistrict@gmail.com
3. Contact Nickie through our website --
brookforestwater.org
4. Write your email address on your statement when you pay it. Your email address would also allow us to provide you up-dates when there are system wide or local issues that affect your water supply, so please help us do a more effective job.

Thank you,

The Board of Directors

Bill Weisenborn, President
Tony Langowski, Vice President
Ilse Ramsey, Treasurer
Bruce Nicklow
Dave Pellegrini