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SJWD Newsletter Summer 2008

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WATER LINES Newsletter

(SJWD logo)

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www.sjwd.com

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Mowers and meters don't mix

Each year, SJWD spends thousands of dollars repairing meter equipment damaged by lawnmowers. In many cases, this cost is passed on to the customer. Here are some tips on how to avoid these problems:

- Familiarize yourself with the location of the meter box (oval shape) and the emergency cut-off valve box (round shape).

- Never mow over the box. Use a weed trimmer around the box.
- Keep the boxes free of landscape materials, dirt and debris.

Don't risk harming your meter, your mower or yourself. Always exercise caution around the meter and cut-off valve boxes. Shown below is the oval water meter box and the round cut-off valve box. The valve box lid is easily removed for emergency cut-off.

Illegal water use costs us all

Every year, thousands of gallons of water are illegally taken from hydrants in our area. Especially during the drought, when most of us are trying so hard to conserve, this water theft is particularly costly. If you should see any suspicious activity near a hydrant, such as a tanker truck drawing water, please contact us immediately. Only SJWD employees, or fire department personnel, should be using our hydrants. Independent users are sometimes allowed to hook up to a hydrant if they have gone through SJWD and are utilizing a hydrant meter. Please call 439-4423, 24/7 to report suspected illegal water use.

Ten Tips for saving water and money

Here are some simple ways to conserve water in and around your home. Estimated gallons of water saved are based one a

family of two adults and one child. (Many of these tips come from the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.)

1. Water your lawn only when it's needed. To check, simply step on your grass. If it springs back when you lift your foot, then it doesn't need water. This can save 750-1,500 gallons of water per month.
2. Fix leaky faucets and plumbing joints. Saves 20 gallons per day for every leak stopped.
3. Don't run the hose while washing the car. Use a bucket of water and a quick hose rinse at the end. Save 150 gallons each wash.
4. Install water-saving shower heads or flow restrictors. Saves 500 to 800 gallons a month.
5. Run only full loads in the washing machine and dishwasher. Save 300 to 800 gallons per month.
6. Shorten your showers. Even a one or two minute reduction can save up to 700 gallons per month.
7. Use a broom to clean driveways and sidewalks instead of a hose. Saves 150 gallons or more each time.
8. Don't use your toilet as an ashtray or wastebasket. If you do, don't flush. You'll save 400 to 600 gallons per month.
9. While waiting for tap water to warm up, capture the cool flow in a watering can to use later on house plants or your garden. Saves 200 to 300 gallons per month.
10. Adjust sprinklers so they water only your lawn or garden. Watering a sidewalk, driveway or gutter wastes up to 500 gallons per month.

Meet our two new commissioners

Roger Nutt. Recently appointed by the Governor to serve as a Commissioner to the SJWD Water District, Roger was born in Johnson City, Tennessee. While a youngster, Roger's family moved to Spartanburg where he later graduated from James F. Byrnes High School. After earning a Bachelor's Degree in engineering from Tennessee Tech University, he went to work for Milliken & Company as an Engineering Manager.

Now Vice President and Treasurer of TNC Engineering, Roger currently serves as Chairman of the Spartanburg County Building Code Board of Appeals. He is also a licensed Professional Engineer in South Carolina and a member of the International Erosion Control Association. In addition, Roger serves on the regulatory committee for the Spartanburg HBA and is a member of the Regulatory and Legislative Policy Committee for Western Carolina Regional Sewer Authority's 20-Year Strategic Plan.

Roger and his wife Tracy have three teen-aged children; Collin, Kaitlin and Luke.

Wanda Fowler.

Wanda Fowler has been an educator her entire adult life. Her passion for teaching began in the traditional classroom where she taught students at Boiling Springs High School for 21 years. Her career in education continued as she taught education classes at USC Upstate;

taught classes for teachers across South Carolina; and served as Director of Graduate Regional Studies.

She currently works in her local community to improve the overall health and wellness of children and families.

Wanda has served as Executive Director of Middle Tyger Community Center in Lyman for the past ten years. In addition to her responsibilities in program implementation and the supervision of 27 highly skilled staff, Wanda is heavily involved in the sustainability efforts of the Center.

Wanda resides in Duncan and is married to Ernie Fowler. She is grandmother to Will Fowler, the son of Missy and Layne Fowler.

2007 Consumer Confidence Report

This newsletter includes our annual Consumer Confidence Report. Please take a few minutes to read it. We believe you'll find it both interesting and informative. If you have any questions concerning the report, call SJWD at 439-4423.

Our Mission (if there's room)

Provide excellent quality water and related services to our current and future customers and lead efforts to protect our water resources while continuously improving cost effectiveness. We accomplish this through the collaborative efforts of our employees, outside resources and agencies

employing sound business practices and optimal use of technology.