

WATERWORKS

Hallsdale-Powell Utility District Customer Newsletter

Spring 2024

More Than JUST WATER



WATER is used for drinking, cleaning, cooking, irrigation, landscaping, putting out fires and for many other vital purposes that are often taken for granted. There is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to ensure that you have high-quality water each time you turn on the faucet.

Long before a water pipe is placed into the ground, we have to analyze how many customers will be potentially served by that infrastructure. Careful planning keeps the balance between moving enough water through the system to ensure it is highest quality, while retaining enough water in storage to meet the demands on any given day... and to have enough in reserve to fight fires.

Once installed, the infrastructure that brings water to your home must be maintained and periodically replaced, no matter how much water is used. Money from your bill not only pays for the water you use, but goes toward maintaining the more than 689 miles of pipe that deliver water to your home, the 14 storage tanks that keep water for use when needed and the almost 2,361 fire hydrants that provide water for fighting fires.



HPUD BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

The Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025) was presented for consideration at the February Board Meeting which was held on 2/12/2024. The budget was approved unanimously at the March Board Meeting held on 3/18/2024. The Budget was submitted to the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury for review and approval. A 3% rate increase on water and a 4% rate increase on sewer for the fiscal years of 2024 and 2025 was approved by the Board of Commissioners at last year's March 20th Board Meeting. The rate increases are necessary to fulfill the District's debt service requirements and to fund capital improvements made as a result of two Consent Orders from the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Utility rates fund the operation and maintenance of water and wastewater services and the infrastructure that delivers these services to the home and from the home back to the environment. The rate increase will go into effect on April 1, 2024.



DETECTING WATER LEAKS

The average household's leaks can account for nearly 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year and ten percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day. The EPA has an annual Fix a Leak Week during the month of March, but remember that you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable water and money all year long.

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 and 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.

HOW TO CHECK FOR LEAKS

To check for leaks in your home, you first need to determine whether you're wasting water and 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, such as January or February. Typically, the usage should be lower in a colder month unless you are letting water drip to prevent pipes from freezing.

CHECK YOUR WATER METER before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes, you may have a leak.

IDENTIFY TOILET LEAKS by placing a few drops of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after a few hours or possibly overnight, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)

EXAMINE FAUCET GASKETS AND PIPE FITTINGS for any water on the outside of the pipe to check for surface leaks.

CHECK YOUR YARD FOR WET AREAS or areas where the grass may be growing better, especially during the summer months.

LEAK FACT

15 DRIPS PER MINUTE

3 GALLONS PER DAY

65 GALLONS PER MONTH

788 GALLONS PER YEAR





IN THE WORKS:

PROJECT UPDATES

SERVICE LINE INVENTORY PROJECT

The Service Line Inventory Project is over 80% complete. This project is required by the Environmental Protection Agency to target water running through lead service lines. The EPA is requiring utilities and municipalities throughout the country to conduct a complete inventory of all service lines installed prior to 1988 by October 2024.

RED HAWK & BRUSHY VALLEY LIFT STATION

This improvement project was awarded to Design & Construction Services, Inc. for \$682,307.70. The Red Hawk and Brushy Valley Sewer Station Project is part of the capital improvement plan and is necessary to repair aging parts, update system controls, and make the stations more efficient in the future. This project was completed earlier this year.

WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

The bid for water line improvements in the area of Norman Road, Old Clinton Hwy, Clinton Hwy, Strolling Lane, Shepard Lane, and Wells Road was awarded to Horizon Underground for \$4,094,110. This capital improvement project is necessary to replace aging and decaying infrastructure and to increase capacity for the future.

SEWER LINE IMPROVEMENTS

This project will address inflow and infiltration issues in the Mynatt/Rifle Range Road area and in Northfield subdivision. The project consists of approximately 21,300 LF of pipe replacement and the rehabilitation of manholes and sewer services.

Sprinkler Spruce-Up

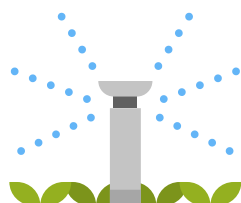
Before you ramp up your watering efforts, spruce up your irrigation system by remembering four simple steps: inspect, connect, direct, and select. Make sure your backflow preventer is installed properly if one is required. Please refer to the Water Safety Tips on our website www.hpud.org for more information about backflow preventers and why they are required.

INSPECT Sprinkler Heads - Just one broken sprinkler head can waste 25,000 gallons of water in six months!

CONNECT Hoses and Pipes - A leak as small as the tip of a pen can waste 6,300 gallons of water per month.

DIRECT Spray - Make sure you are spraying landscape and not sidewalks or driveways.

SELECT A WaterSense Labeled Irrigation Controller - Irrigation controllers have intuitive programming controls to schedule irrigation based on the plant water requirement.



SAFE DIGGING is no accident!

CALL 811 OR CLICK

www.tn811.com

April is National Safe Digging Month. This month serves as a reminder to call 811 at least 72 hours before digging regardless of the depth or familiarity of the property. Calling 811 before you dig can help prevent injuries, property damage and inconvenient utility outages!

For more information visit: www.tenn811.com



Most every home or business has one or more utility lids in their lawn. These include a water meter lid, a manhole lid, or a water valve box lid. We encourage you or your lawn service not to mow over these lids because it may cause damage to the mower or other property damage. Also, do not stand, park, or drive on these lids as it may cause utility damage and/or service interruption or injury to someone.



IMPORTANT DATES!

BOARD MEETINGS

APRIL 8TH 1:30PM

MAY 13TH 1:30 PM

JUNE 10TH 6:00 PM

OFFICE CLOSURE

MONDAY, MAY 27TH

MEMORIAL DAY