



**First Quarter**

**Newsletter**

**2009**

## **WATER CONSERVATION: NO LONGER A FAD....IT'S A TREND**

For the past three years WWSD has implemented a mandatory water conservation program aimed at conserving water and promoting the wise use of water. This year is no different. In 2009, WWSD continues to sponsor its three tiered approach to conservation and its commitment toward sustainable water.

### **2009 WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM**

**Education:** WWSD believes that well informed consumers will be committed to conserving water and to that end the following on-going education programs were established.

- **Poster Contest:** 2009 will be the fourth year for the WWSD's elementary school poster contest. Over the past 3 years our community schools have increased their interest and participation in this annual event. This is a fun program that educates both parents and children (future consumers) about the need for water conservation. WWSD's goal is to increase awareness that water is a wondrous and precious natural resource through this year's theme of "the Wonder of Water". In May the innovative and colorful posters will be displayed in the WWSD office.

**Rebate Program:** WWSD will continue to offer rebates to encourage residents to conserve water. Over the past few years WWSD has reimbursed over \$8000 in customer retrofits to low water usage toilets, clothes washers, dishwashers, showerheads and the like.

**Watering Restrictions:** An odd-even irrigation program has been established restricting irrigation to three days a week. These restrictions will remain in place in 2009.

For further information on these programs go online to [www.woodmoorwater.com](http://www.woodmoorwater.com) or call us at 488-2525 ext. # 10.

### **SUMMER WATER USE AND 2009 WATER USE RATES:**

With spring here and summer on its way, WWSD looks to the heavy water use summer season where folks enjoy their lawns and those backyard BBQ's. For WWSD the summer means increased daily water production, sometimes as much as 4 times that amount we produce during a typical winter day (i.e. no irrigation). For customers it means a higher monthly water bill. At the onset of those hot summer days don't become a victim of "over watering" and incurring unexpected and/or unnecessary increases in your water bill. Please refer to our website for a complete publication of 2009 water user rates and compute your estimated summertime monthly usage (from a previous summer month billing) using the current rate structure to gain an idea of what your summer watering may cost this year. As always, we ask that you conserve as much as possible.

### **LAKE WOODMOOR: "WATER LEVELS ON THE RISE"**

At the beginning of this year WWSD substantially completed the lake Woodmoor Dam Outlet Repairs necessary to sustain the Lake and Dam structure in safe working order. Although topsoil and revegetation of disturbed areas won't be complete until later this spring, WWSD is currently refilling the lake and will continue to do so in order to meet our customer's water needs. As you may know, the lake is now an integral part of our overall community water system and therefore everyone should expect to see the lake's water surface elevation fluctuate on a cyclical basis. Just a reminder to everyone, the lake will remain a non-recreational facility (i.e. no fishing, swimming, boating, etc.) since the water contained in Lake Woodmoor is a source water of our potable system. We appreciate your understanding and support in our efforts.

## **R<sub>x</sub> DRUGS DISPOSAL: THE “SMAR<sub>x</sub>T DISPOSAL PROGRAM”**

At the recent symposium concerning the presence of pharmaceuticals in the watershed and in the water supply, a presentation was made by representatives of the Pharmaceutical Research and Research Manufacturers Association of America about their program to assist the public in securing information to help them dispose of unused or expired medications in a safe manner.

Among the findings from the symposium was agreement among the professionals that even though trace presences of some pharmaceuticals have been detected in watersheds, those trace amounts have not been shown to pose any human health threat. The professionals agreed that there should be more scientific research conducted to monitor the water quality but that the information that is currently available through the scientific community does not warrant public health concerns. *The professionals also agreed that the most effective strategy that can be employed while more research is being conducted is proper disposal in landfills by the consuming public.* Such disposal is safe, easy and convenient and can be undertaken by everyone. Enclosed with this newsletter is a complimentary refrigerator magnet prepared by the Pikes Peak Water Authority (PPRWA). WWSD is an active member agency within the PPRWA and supports the drug disposal recommendations. We must all do our part to protect our water supplies and the environment from declining in quality. The SMAR<sub>x</sub>T disposal program is a progressive way to support clean water and the environment. For more information on the subject please visit the PPRWA website at [www.pprwa.com](http://www.pprwa.com).

## **GUARD YOURSELF AGAINST WATER BREAKS AND SEWER BACKUPS:**

Inevitably water breaks and sewer backups occur, it's just one aspect of water and sewer service that all of us must accept. Why do these events occur, people ask? Well there's no real definitive answer but rather a number of elements that exist which create heightened probability of a water pipe break and/or sewer backup occurrence. Some of those elements are listed below:

### **Sewer Lines:**

- Aging infrastructure and structural failure
- Actions by others. This includes unreported damage from excavation or construction.
- Abnormal weather such a heavy rainfall/flooding.

### **Water Lines:**

- Aging infrastructure and structural failure
- Actions by others. This includes unreported damage from excavation or construction.
- Weather patterns such as freezing and thawing of the earths surface is suspected of aiding in water break occurrences.

There are a few steps you as a homeowner can do hedge against losses/damages that can occur during these unforeseen events:

### **Sewer:**

1. Contact your insurance agent and speak with them about insurance coverage for these events. Most homeowners' insurance companies will insure against sanitary sewer backups. However, not all insurance carriers have the same policies, amount of coverage or rates.
2. A number of sanitary sewer backups are attributable to the customers' service line condition (i.e. roots that have infiltrated into the service line, old clay tile service lines that have deteriorated to the point of collapse and non biodegradable items that have been flushed down the toilet). These items can be mitigated through good maintenance practice by the homeowner. Homeowner's should inspect their sewer service line(s) periodically and have any roots or substandard structural items repaired. This keeps the service line in good working order and reduces the risk of a backup event. Several local area contractors perform these routine services.
3. Contact a consultant (water wastewater engineer and/or contractor specialized in the field) who can assess your specific risks and provide further recommendations.

### **Water:**

1. WWSD surmises that inadequate surface drainage is the #1 cause of damage resulting from a water break. Many home sites in our community have little to no surface drainage and in a number of incidents, surface drainage actually exacerbated damages. WWSD strongly recommends that you contact your homeowner's insurance agent to see if there may be coverage available; in addition, WWSD recommends you speak to a drainage professional that can help you assess your risks and give you specific recommendations to minimize those risks.