



THE PIPELINE

WINTER 2015

An informative newsletter for our valued utility customers

Update on the Decatur Force-Main Project

After many years of planning, one year of construction and 10 million dollars, CWSD has finally finished the project which will help secure Centerton's future growth. With the partnership between Decatur and Centerton, the completion of the Decatur force-main project will carry us into the long term future for treatment of our city's wastewater.

CENTERTON WATER AND SEWER IS A SELF SUSTAINING COMPANY. WE DO NOT RECEIVE ANY TAX DOLLARS AND ARE SOLELY FUNDED BY RATES.

Once this project was completed, we performed a long needed rate analysis. Since CWSD receives no tax dollars, the entire system has to be paid for by the rate payers. We have been running tight the past few years, but didn't want to do anything until after this project was completed and we were sure there wasn't going to be any surprises.

Close to 95% of our water and sewer lines in the ground

are less than twenty-five years old. Since CWSD receives no tax revenue, all of this has to be paid for by rates. In the past, the "Minimum" charge has included the first 1000 gallons used. The usage rate then took over at 1001 gallons. As mentioned in the article to the

right side of this page, the minimum is only supposed to cover the fixed costs. The

usage rate pays for the operations and maintenance.

After the rate analysis was completed, it was determined that a couple of adjustments were needed so the company was financially viable and our bond holders were satisfied.

First, the 1000 gallons included in the minimum charge was removed and will be charged at the usage rate. This was done for BOTH water and sewer minimums.

WHY IS OUR "MINIMUM BILL" HIGHER THAN OTHERS

It's all a matter of age. The minimum charge for service is a flat fee on your bill that stays the same no matter how much water you use. This fee is in place to pay the fixed costs of the utility, primarily loans, (Principle and Interest). Most cities around us have had water and sewer systems that have been paid for many years ago. Our system is relatively new. While Centerton has been around since 1914, most of its infrastructure was installed within just the last 25 years. Relatively speaking, we are a very young water system.

Second, in order to cover the fixed cost on water, the minimum rate was raised from \$16 per month to \$20 per month. This was necessary in order to cover the costs of the loans it took to build the system. This was only done on water.

The residential per thousand water and sewer rate stays the same.

No one ever likes to talk about raising rates. However, from time to time, we have no choice and it has to be done. We have not raised fees on

water for several years, until now. Regrettably, this will raise your cost some, but it was necessary.

For a full listing of rates, fees and charges, you can go to our website www.cwsdonline.com or call the office.

WATER SAVING TIPS

In the Bathroom

- Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you'll save up to 150 gallons per month.
- Turn off the water while brushing your teeth and save 25 gallons a month.
- Take a shower instead of taking a bath. Showers with low-flow shower heads use less water than taking a bath.
- Turn off the water while you wash your hair to save up to 150 gallons a month.
- Reduce the level of the water being used in a bathtub by one or two inches if a shower is not available.
- When remodeling a bathroom, install a new low-volume flush toilet that uses only 1.6 gallons per flush.
- Test toilets for leaks. Add a few drops of food coloring or a dye tablet to the water in the tank, but do not flush the toilet. Watch to see if the coloring appears in the bowl within a few minutes. If it does, the toilet has a silent leak that needs to be repaired.
- Use a toilet tank displacement device such as a toilet dam or bag. Another alternative is filling a plastic bottle with stones or water, recapped, and placed in the toilet tank. These devices will reduce the volume of water in the tank but will still provide enough for flushing. Displacement devices are not recommended with new low-volume flush toilets.
- Never use the toilet to dispose of cleansing tissues, cigarette butts, or other trash. This wastes a great deal of water and also places an unnecessary load on the sewage treatment plant or septic tank.
- Do not use hot water when cold will do. Water and energy can be saved by washing hands with soap and cold water. Hot water should be added only when hands are especially dirty.
- Do not let the water run when washing hands. Water should be turned off while washing and scrubbing and be turned on again to rinse. A cutoff valve may be installed on the faucet.
- When shaving, fill the lavatory basin with hot water instead of letting the water run continuously.
- Place water-saving aerators on all of your faucets.

BY MAIL

CWSD
PO Box 366
Centerton, AR 72719

BY PHONE

(479)795-0222

ONLINE

cwsdonline.com

IN PERSON

500 Keller Road
Centerton, AR

DROP BOXES

Water Office
& City Hall