

A Letter from the President

GREETINGS FROM YOUR WATER AND SEWER UTILITY.

The summer rains have come again, and so far we have been spared a visit by a tropical storm. Let's keep our fingers crossed. This gives me the opportunity to tell you that at the beginning of each tropical storm season South Walton Utility does a thorough review of tropical storm preparations to be sure we are prepared and we also coordinate with FlaWarn and area utilities for mutual support. For you the member, SWUCI is storm ready.

The year has been eventful at our local level. The most eventful for me and your utility Board of Directors has been the retirement of our General Manager, Pete DeBogory. Pete was the heart of the utility for 30 years. He gave us three decades of professional management and forward looking vision. Pete turned over the reins to Alicia Keeter who began her professional career as a co-op scholarship recipient working for Pete. She has grown up with SWUCI and her experience has already been valuable as we approach completion of our part of widening US98.

One important new capability has begun implementation. Over the next several years we are updating our meters with a self-reporting system that does not require a meter reader. Water use is reported to a network and the staff access the portal and are able to detect unusual water use by the customer. This allows our staff to contact the user to be certain their system does not have a leak. It works too. I have had a leak that was reported to us and was repaired quickly, avoiding a large bill. South Walton Utility is dedicated to providing safe water and wastewater service at the best rates possible.

Here's wishing you a safe and enjoyable summer and fall.

Michael M. Flynt