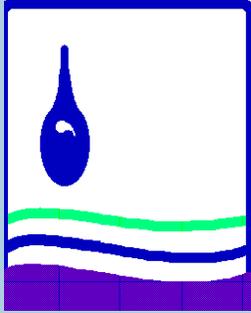


Pipeline

A Newsletter of South Walton Utility Co., Inc.

September 2012



South Walton Utility Co., Inc.
PO Box 6888
369 Miramar Beach Dr.
Miramar Beach, FL 32550

MISSION STATEMENT

“FROM WATER TO WASTEWATER OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE OUR MEMBERS QUALITY AND RELIABLE SERVICE IN A RESPONSIVE AND EQUITABLE MANNER.”

Inside this issue

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Phase IV Water Supply Project Continues

Our WRP Phase IV water supply project is progressing well along the west side of Hwy 331. As you may have seen through your travels construction crews are diligently working installing pipe from the existing wellfield south to the courthouse annex. Our contractor, Hemphill Construction has completed approximately 70% of the work and anticipates an early completion by mid spring. Polyengineering, Inc., our consulting engineering firm, is aiding in the oversight of construction.



The photo above depicts the barge used for installation of pipe across Choctawhatchee Bay.

Mark Your Calendar

SWUCI Annual Members' Meeting
November 13, 2012 at 5:00 p.m.

369 Miramar Beach Drive, Miramar Beach In the Grimaldi Room

All members are encouraged to attend. Elections for SWUCI Board of Directors will be held and our annual audit report will be presented by Warren Averett, LLC. As a member owned company it is important to be involved with your utility.

Founder's Day Celebration

Open House October 18, 2012

We are 44 years old!

Join us for a Founder's Day celebration at 71 Miramar Beach Drive from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Members will enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs while chatting with the staff and learning about all that goes on in their utility company



Make Your Voice Heard

South Walton Utility Company, Inc. (SWUCI) is a member-owned and operated utility that relies on a key group of volunteers to keep the company headed on the right track. As a member of SWUCI, you have the opportunity to help to decide who sits on the Board of Directors.

"Each of our members has a voice in the operation of SWUCI through the Board of Directors," said Pete DeBogory, SWUCI General Manager. "Make your voice heard in the upcoming election."

Members of the Board of Directors are elected to three-year terms. The current Board appoints a nominating committee to recommend candidates for upcoming vacancies. Individual members can also make Board nominations.

Directors and officers receive no compensation for their services.

Current Board Members are:

Mike Flynt – President
Bill Berberich – Vice-President
Mike Richardson – Secretary
Dave Brown – Treasurer
Jack Lubker
Mike Abt
Bill McQuillan

Water Conservation

You can help your utility by practicing water conservation. The simple repair of a drippy faucet or replacing your commode flappers helps you and helps conserve our precious resource.

Rate Increase

A rate increase based on a report from a firm hired to examine our rates recommended a 4.5% rate increase for water and a 3% increase for wastewater. This means a family that uses an average of 4,000 gallons a month will see an increase of \$1.55 per month in their bill beginning in October.

Rules for Nominations from the Membership

HOW TO NOMINATE A DIRECTOR

Any member of SWUCI can nominate a candidate for election to the Board of Directors by following these guidelines:

The individual(s) being nominated must be an eligible member of SWUCI.

- To be an eligible member of SWUCI, the individual must have an active account as of the nomination record date of September 14, 2012.
- Once elected to the Board of Directors, an individual can serve on the Board only so long as that individual remains an eligible member of the company.

You must prepare a petition nominating the individual of your choice on which you have presented sufficient information to validate that individual's status as an eligible member of SWUCI. A separate petition is required for each individual being nominated.

- The petition must include the signatures, addresses and account numbers of fifteen (15) eligible members of SWUCI **in addition to the individual being nominated** who are eligible as of the nomination record date of September 14, 2012.

You must provide a short (one page) biography of the individual being nominated which specifically sets forth the qualifications you feel this individual possesses which will make him/her an asset to SWUCI and its members by serving on the Board of Directors. Please keep in mind that this individual, if elected, will be expected to attend the monthly Board meetings, the Annual Member meetings and any special meetings as properly called.

All of this information must be delivered to SWUCI by mail or delivery to the Administrative Offices of SWUCI, 369 Miramar Beach Drive, Miramar Beach, FL 32550-4938.

This information must be received **no later than 4:30 p.m., on September 28, 2012.**

- This time frame is required to permit the individual's name and biography to be included on the printed ballot that will be mailed to all members.
- Petitions received after that date cannot be accepted and will not be considered.

Nominations for Directors will not be accepted from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

A Letter from the President



Events during the hot days and heavy rains of late July and early August give me a chance to brag on the preparations and professionalism of the South Walton Utility Company Inc. (SWUCI) employee team.

On Sunday, July 29th a call from a passerby sent our weekend on-call field worker to the Seascope entrance on US 98. The situation was quickly discovered to be a significant sewer force main leak. Other SWUCI team members were called in to assess the problem and begin mitigating the spillage already on the ground. They discovered the repair work exceeded the capability of our small staff. Contractors were quickly hired to excavate the leak, pump out the lift station that sends waste to our treatment plant, replace the broken pipe and restore the excavation site. SWUCI has a field crew of 8 individuals. Roughly 10 contractor personnel were needed to fix the problem. By Tuesday, July 31st the work was done and on August 3rd the Department of Health lifted their Health Advisory for the surface spill. It is a great success story.

Here comes the bragging. General Manager Pete DeBogory has assembled and trained a small team of excellent people needed for normal field operations and routine repairs. Operations Manager Bruce Morrison handles the training and field work. In this incident he and Project Manager Alicia Keeter managed the many tasks required to fix the leak. They sized up the problem, hired a contractor to excavate a broken 10 inch pipe and replace it, and they hired five different companies to keep the sewer lift station at Holiday Road safely pumped out. They drew parts and materials from stock and procured extra needed materials locally. All the while they coordinated the work, traffic, and safety requirements with contractors, Department of Transportation, Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Health and the patient, helpful managers of Seascope. All this was done in 17-18 hour days of alternating 100° heat and heavy rain with lightning. If this doesn't sound like bragging I must not be telling the story right. We have a small staff of talented professionals at all levels in the field. Pete and his team accomplish so much while keeping our rates among the lowest in the region. My hat is off for a job well done!

There is another job being well done that deserves some bragging. Perhaps you have noticed the Blue Star flag flying below the American flag over our treatment plant. The star recognizes one or more family members of the SWUCI team serving in our armed forces in a combat zone overseas. As this is written the son of one of our office workers is in harm's way in Afghanistan. You can take pride in our SWUCI team and in the sacrifices of their family members. Both are working for your safety and security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Flynt".

Michael Flynt

Water Conservation

As part of our water conservation program we have a retro fit program in place. We will provide showerheads, faucet aerators, and leak detection tablets to you at no charge. Ask at our office front desk for more information.

The simple repair of a drippy faucet or replacing your commode flappers helps you and helps conserve water.

Call before you dig! Before breaking ground on any projects contact Sunshine 811 to find out where your underground utility lines are located.

Damage to utility lines can harm yourself or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and result in fines and repair costs. These hassles can easily be avoided by having lines marked before beginning any outdoor projects.

Contact 811 a few days before you dig and inform them of your plan. They will send a locator to mark the approximate location of underground lines, pipes and cables so you'll be able to dig safely.

Remember, the best way to make sure your family and home are safe is to call before you dig.

Congratulations to Mary Locke on her recent retirement! After seventeen years at SWUCI Mary decided to join the ranks of the retired in the area.

Nancy Kennedy was promoted to Office Manager. Congratulations to Mary and Nancy!



South Walton Utility
Co., Inc.

369 Miramar Beach Dr.
Miramar Beach, FL 32550



Visit our website:
www.swuci.org

E-Billing and Electronic Funds Transfer

AUTHORIZATION FOR ELECTRONIC TRANSFER OF FUNDS

South Walton Utility Co. Inc.
369 Miramar Beach Drive, Miramar Beach, FL 32550
Phone: (850) 837-2988; Fax (850) 837-7648

Customer Name _____
SWUCI _____
Customer _____
Numbers _____

Please deduct payments from my:
 Checking Account
 Saving Account

**Direct debits will occur on the 1st work day of the month.
Please allow two (2) weeks processing time before your
direct debit is operational.**

South Walton Utility Company, Inc. is hereby authorized to process an electronic debit from the account described above once a month in the amount of my monthly water/sewer bill.

Signature _____ Date _____

**Please be sure to include a voided check for bank account verification, and mail together with this completed form to:
South Walton Utility Co., Inc.
369 Miramar Beach Drive, Miramar Beach, FL 32550**

E-billing allows us to email your bill to you instead of sending a hard copy! You will receive your bill sooner and you will be able to access it even if you are out of town. Send an email to NDK@SWUCI.ORG if you would like to take advantage of this option.

In addition to e-billing we can automatically draft your bill from your bank account. This is done the first work day of the month. Fill out the attached form and return it to us and we will set up your auto-draft. These two options make bill paying much easier.