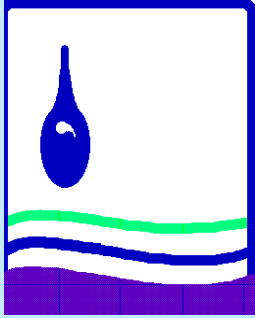


Pipeline

A Newsletter of South Walton Utility Co., Inc.

September 2014



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.”

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SEWER REHAB PROJECT BEGINS

South Walton Utility Co., Inc. will be starting a sewer rehabilitation project beginning this September. This project will be a yearlong contract that will consist of a variety of repair methods to renew our aging infrastructure.

After the rain events this past year our sewer system showed signs of infiltration from the localized flooding and groundwater intrusion. As a result of the damage from the rains we have coordinated with Polyengineering, Inc. and J & P Construction to repair the damaged pipes and manholes. Construction crews will be working in various areas throughout our system. Some of the areas you can expect to see them in are Destin East Mobile Home Park, Seascapes, Mainsail Drive to Norwood Drive and various locations along Scenic Gulf Drive. There will be a variety of work conditions happening all over so we ask for your patience and assistance with this project.

Destin East Mobile Home Park and the area from Mainsail Drive to Norwood Drive will see the greatest impact as we will be replacing the gravity sewer system. We will be coordinating with the property owners to communicate the specific details of our work and how it will impact you, the resident. More details of specific work areas will be posted on our website to help keep you informed.



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 be avoided by having lines marked before beginning any outdoor projects.

E-Billing and Electronic Funds Transfer

We are always striving to make life simpler for our members. We offer **two free services** to help you make payments fast and easy: E-Billing and Automatic Draft.

E-Billing allows you to receive your bill each month by email. No more waiting! You receive your bill the same day the bills are generated. This is an excellent means of receiving your bill fast, especially if you live out of town. Send an email to [NDK @SWUCI.ORG](mailto:NDK@SWUCI.ORG) to request this free service.

Automatic Draft is a hassle-free way to pay your bill on time each month. No more postage and no more worries about late charges! Your bank account will draft on the first business day of each month. To sign up for this free service, complete and return the form on the back of this letter or download the form off our website www.swuci.org

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

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.

Proposed Rate Increase

A rate consultant hired by the Board of Directors has recommended a 4.5% increase in water rates and a 3.0% increase in sewer rates. The Board of Directors will consider the recommendation in September. If the Board approves the recommended rate increase, a family that uses 4,000 gallons per month will see an increase of \$1.69 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 12, 2014.
- 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 12, 2014.

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 26, 2014.**

- 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.



Fall 2014
Sports Fields
SWUCI in the News

A Letter from the President

Sports Fields: South Walton Utility Company has an opportunity to improve the lives of residents in our service area and surrounding neighborhoods at no cost to our utility members. Walton County government has recognized the need for sports fields south of Choctawhatchee Bay. Our 26 acres of percolation ponds just west side of South Geronimo Street are being looked at for development similar to the Morgan Sports Complex in Destin. The surface ponds can be buried as percolation piping and accomplish the same treated water disposal as at present.

Development of practice fields that will not be used for organized events is being considered. All development will be at county expense and thoroughly coordinated with South Walton Utility Company. A 20 year lease is being discussed with a small annual fee to cover any costs our utility might incur. The public has the opportunity to comment on the project directly to the Board of County Commissioners.

SWUCI in the News: An article in the Northwest Florida Daily News early in July highlighted a continuing underground infrastructure challenge faced in South Walton. Our utility had a spillage of untreated waste water on Bayshore Drive that set the Department of Health advisory system in motion. At about the same time Regional Utilities had a spill in Sandestin. Fortunately, our staff and contractors quickly solved the immediate problem and our portion of Choctawhatchee Bay was declared safe in just a few days. The long term problem is aging infrastructure. We were incorporated 48 years ago and some of the aging pipes and facilities need replacement. We have been replacing problem sections and will continue to do so as needed. In addition, our Project Manager is identifying potential problem areas and generating plans for repairs and replacements before problems arise. You can see her project report elsewhere in this newsletter.

South Walton Utility Company is your company. The sports field project shows our willingness to make life better for everyone in South Walton without impact on our members. Quick response to problems of aging infrastructure and pro-active measures to identify and correct potential problems before they become expensive repairs shows our commitment to provide you the best available water and sewer service at the most reasonable rates. It is our honor serving you. Thanks for your continued confidence and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Michael Flynt

Founder's Day Celebration *Open House October 16, 2014*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW! You don't want to miss our annual Founder's Day Celebration. Join us at 369 Miramar Beach Drive from 11:00am to 1:00pm for hot dogs and hamburgers! This is the perfect time for members to visit our facility and learn about what we do here at South Walton Utility. Our friendly staff will be available to answer any questions about our day to day operations.

Important Info About Commercial Floor Drains:

Commercial floor drains require periodic maintenance of adding water to the drain trap to eliminate odor. When drain traps are dry they can produce a foul smell. **DO NOT COVER** drain traps, just add a cup of water.

WWW.SWUCI.ORG

Our website is full of important information! Please visit our website to review your account, pay your bill, read important news bulletins or to sign up for new service. Our site has lots of information you may find interesting: our annual water quality report, water saving tips, how to prepare for a hurricane or other inclement weather conditions. We also post advisories, holiday hours, financial statements plus much more. Take a moment to visit our website and learn more about South Walton Utility Company.



South Walton Utility
Co., Inc.

369 Miramar Beach Dr.
Miramar Beach, FL 32550

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Visit our website:
www.swuci.org

Mark Your Calendar

SWUCI Annual Members' Meeting

**November 19, 2014 at 5:00
p.m.**

369 Miramar Beach Drive
Miramar Beach

All members are encouraged to attend. Elections for SWUCI Board of Directors will be held. 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.

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: **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.**
 Checking Account
 Saving Account

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**