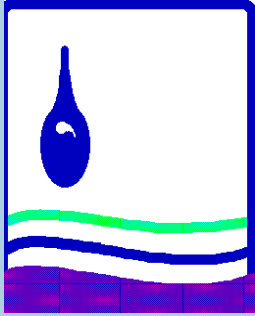


Pipeline

A Newsletter of South Walton Utility Co., Inc.

September 2013



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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MEET GERRY SCOTT

I arrived here from Michigan with my family in 2009 and was hired by South Walton Utility Co. nearly 2 years ago. I am currently a C Waste Water Operator and will be testing for my B license in the near future.

Everyone in the company has been great; they have made me feel a welcome part of the organization. A special thanks to the great group of guys that I work with at the treatment plant. They readily accepted me as part of the team and openly share with me vast amounts of knowledge they have acquired over the years. We all take our operator responsibilities very seriously; your safety and the safety of the environment are our top priorities.

We also try to reflect the seriousness of which we take our jobs in the presentation of our facility. We spend many hours maintaining our equipment for smooth and reliable operation. We clean, paint, and landscape continuously not only for appearances but also for safety as well as odor control. We want our plant to look as good as it is run.

Recently Bruce Morrison came up with the idea of painting a mural on our Aeration Basin. It was decided a patriotic theme would be appropriate, not only to represent the pride we feel for our country but also in honor of the military presence in our area. I told them I could draw and paint and would like to do something. I could see the doubt in their eyes but they were kind enough to let me give it a try. Everyone seemed pleased with the results and we are planning to add to the mural as time permits. I am very excited to continue. Lots of open canvas!

We are so happy we chose Miramar Beach to be our home and I cannot thank SWUCI enough for the opportunity they have given me to be a part of such a fantastic organization.



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.

Infiltration and Intrusion (I & I)

With the recent heavy rains we have seen these past few months our wastewater system has been taxed with excessive flows from groundwater infiltration and intrusion. As a result of this we have begun an I & I campaign to inspect, evaluate and repair areas where we received the greatest amount of groundwater impact. What this means to you our customers; we will have crews throughout the system smoke testing, performing manhole inspections, videoing sewer lines and potentially contractors in various locations making repairs. If you see any of our crews in your area working please take that extra time to slow down and be aware of their safety. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the office for additional information.

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 \$1.62 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 13, 2013.
- 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 13, 2013.

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 27, 2013.**

- 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



South Walton Utility Company is approaching a new fiscal year. Part of our annual cycle is preparation for the Annual Meeting in November. At that meeting we present the budget plan for the new year that was adopted in September. In addition, we conduct an election for members of our Board of Directors if necessary. One Board member position is coming vacant this year and the incumbent has volunteered to serve another term. For anyone wanting to serve on the Board, there are instructions elsewhere in the Pipeline for qualifying for an election.

This is a good time to thank the Board of Directors for their dedication and work in the past year. The year has been busy and productive. Our Board members serve with no pay as they monitor all financial operations, field operations and planning for future needs. In their monthly meetings they authorize policy decisions and all major expenditures. Their only reward is pride in knowing that we provide our members an efficient, effective utility with the lowest rates in the region. Every Board member is a member of South Walton Utility Company just like you. They guard your interests just like they do their own. I thank them for their dedication and service to the South Walton community.

The rains of July gave us a couple of challenges. Our utility was incorporated in 1966 and some of our underground sewers are aging. We see the effects of this as infiltration into our sewage treatment plant in times of heavy rains. Infiltration can threaten to overwhelm our treatment plant. We are conducting a thorough survey of the sewer system to locate potential problems and quickly take corrective action. Actions include upgrades to sewer “manholes”. In addition, heavy rains near Mallett Bayou exposed some of our new pipeline and put it in danger. We will be moving a part of the new pipeline to address this unexpected threat.

We approach the end of the summer with its cooler weather and reduced traffic on US 98. I hope your summer has been a good one. And I hope you consider attending our Annual Meeting in November.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Flynt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Michael Flynt

Founder's Day Celebration

Open House October 17, 2013



45 years and still growing!

Join us for a Founder's Day celebration at 369 Miramar Beach Drive from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Members will enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers while chatting with the staff and learning about all that goes on in their utility company. Take a tour of the WWTP and see the Artwork by Gerry Scott.

E-Billing and Electronic Funds Transfer

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 form on the back of this newsletter and return it to us and we will set up your auto-draft. These two options make bill paying much easier.



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 12, 2013 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