



Pipeline

A Newsletter of South Walton Utility Co., Inc.

September 2017

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 MEM-
BERS QUALITY AND
RELIABLE SERVICE IN
A RESPONSIVE AND
EQUITABLE MANNER.”

Inside this issue

SWUCI News

Free E-billing & EFT

Cross Connection Program

Water Conservation

Make Your Voice Heard

How to Nominate a
Director

Letter from the
President

FOG, BFP, AMI

Mark your Calendar
Annual Members Meeting

Founder's Day Celebration



Find us on
Facebook

Follow us on
Twitter



SWUCI NEWS

This year has brought many new happenings around SWUCI. Our first major change has been the retirement of Peter DeBogory. Pete was the General Manager for South Walton Utility for 30+ years. We celebrated his accomplishments over the years with a great retirement party on March 31st. Pete was a valuable employee to SWUCI and we will be forever indebted to him for his years of service, dedication and vision. Thanks Pete for 30 great years!



As your new General Manager, it is my mission to continue in the path of Mr. DeBogory to provide quality and reliable service in a responsive and equitable manner.

~ Alicia Keeter

In other happenings, 2017 has been a very busy year for SWUCI. The Hwy 98 utility relocation project is projected to be finished by the end of the year. Crews will begin making the connections to the newly installed lines in the coming months. Our inland Well 13 project will be complete and operational by the end of this year as well. With this well we will be complete with our inland water supply master plan.

Cross Connection Control Program

<http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/drinkingwater/bfp.htm>

In news around the state, the Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection(FDEP) has made changes to their cross connection control program. This, in turn, mandates that we update our backflow policy to include change outs of existing residential back flow preventers as well as ask our commercial customers to test and/ or install new back flow devices to prevent any cross contamination from your system into our public water supply.

For those who are in compliance with backflow testing we say **thank you!** If you have a commercial backflow device please note that these require yearly testing by a certified backflow testing company.

*Did you know:

- Bottled water and water vending machines are regulated by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Food Safety.
- Digging of water wells, both public and private, and the quantities of water that may be extracted, are regulated by the Water Management Districts
- A continuous leak from a 1/8" hole over a three month period wastes about 18,500 gallons of water.
- Did you know you can find several ways to conserve water? Visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/start-saving> for more details on how you can be a water miser.
- Fix a Leak Week, March 19 through 25, 2018 Mark you calendars.

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
 Mike Richardson – Vice-President
 Dave Brown – Secretary
 Bill McQuillan – Treasurer
 Jack Lubker
 Mike Abt
 Steve Dixon

Water Conservation

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

We encourage all members to conserve water by frequently checking for leaky toilets, placing a nozzle on the water hose to prevent free flowing water while cleaning homes, cars or driveways, replacing shower heads with low flow devices, or retrofitting aging plumbing fixtures to promote water conservation. For those homes in the rental program we encourage you to educate your guests about the importance of preserving our valuable resource.

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 15, 2017.
- 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 15, 2017.

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 29, 2017.**

- 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



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

FOG - Fats, Oils and Grease – remember to drain your fats oils and grease and place in a disposable container and dispose of properly, not pour them down your sink. Over time this creates clogs in your sewer lateral that will back up into your home and create costly plumbing repairs.

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.

Back Flow Preventers do just what their name says, prevent backflow of water from your home or irrigation system into the community water system. Our crews are currently on task to replace these along with new meters and/or **Automated Metering Infrastructure** on your meters over the next 5 years. This new AMI infrastructure helps us and you detect leaks, analyze your bill faster and detect unacceptable backflow into our water system. [Visit our website for more information on AMI meters!](#)

Flushable doesn't mean it is biodegradable.

Products labeled as "flushable" do not break down in the collection system and create clogs in our pumping equipment and can create sewer overflows. We encourage you to throw these items away.

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

Mark Your Calendar

SWUCI Annual Members' Meeting

November 16, 2017 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.

Founder's Day Celebration *Open House October 12, 2017*

Join us for our annual Founder's Day Celebration at 369 Miramar Beach Drive from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Members will enjoy hamburgers and hot dogs while chatting with the staff and learning about their utility company.



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 for information 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

Presorted First Class
US POSTAGE PAID
Fort Walton Beach, FL
Permit No. 182



Visit our website:
www.swuci.org

E-Billing and Electronic Funds Transfer

South Walton Utility offers **two free services** to our members 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 way to receive your bill fast, especially if you live out of town. Send an email to 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 attached form or download the form off our website www.swuci.org

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 up to one billing cycle 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**