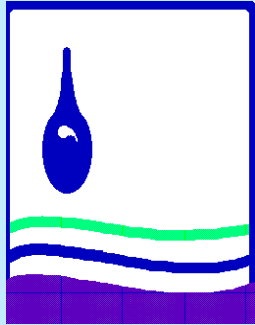


Pipeline

A Newsletter of South Walton Utility Co., Inc.

September 2015



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 PRO-
VIDE OUR MEMBERS
QUALITY AND RELIA-
BLE SERVICE IN A RE-
SPONSIVE AND EQUI-
TABLE MANNER."**

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Sewer Rehab ends & Relocation Project begins

There is light at the end of the tunnel for our sewer rehab project. The contractor has completed a large portion of the work in our service area. Destin East Mobile Home Park has about 45 days left to go in the sewer replacement component. New roadways are in the future! Our final phase of rehabilitation begins August 18th and will be complete end of September. We appreciate all efforts with you our customer to accommodate and cooperate with this very important asset improvement.

In the near future you will see a lot of happenings along Hwy 98 from Tang-O-Mar Drive to Destin Commons. The Florida DOT is gearing up to 6 lane Hwy 98 and with that creates challenges for all your utilities. We will be relocating a large portion of our lines to accommodate this project. Please be cautious, be alert and patient with our efforts to meet the demands of growth in our area.



Workers prepare lining for gravity sewer pipelines.

Remember... No Fats, Oils or Grease down the Drain...

Mark Your Calendar

SWUCI Annual Members' Meeting
November 17, 2015 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 15, 2015*



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 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

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.

Important Information 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.

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 11, 2015.
- 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 11, 2015.

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 25, 2015.**

- 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

The summer has been hot and rainy and we are looking forward to cooler weather in the change of seasons. This year we have not faced the challenge of rain damage and flooding as in recent years, but we are facing another challenge. A fiscal challenge. Our utility is member owned with a financial goal of operating just in the black, with no losses, but a small amount to the good. That is how we offer some of the best water and sewer rates in our region. But expenses of the last year and anticipated new expenses in the next few years have made it necessary to do a rate study to make certain we maintain our "break even" posture.



The excellent financial and operational efforts of the South Walton Utility Company Inc. (SWUCI) staff in partnership with Destin Water Users secured our future water needs with a \$20 million pipeline project from the General Bill Brown Well Field near Freeport with a just a small rate increase two years ago. This year we face the expenses of rehabilitating the old gravity sewer system in the Miramar Beach area, replacing a faulty sewer main in the Bayside neighborhood, and relocating our lines at the intersection of Geronimo and US 98 to accommodate a new traffic signal. But the biggest challenge faces us in the next several years. The major challenge is the planned six-laning of US 98 which will cost South Walton Utility Company, Inc. an estimated \$2.5 million.

As a cost of using the Department of Transportation rights of way, all utilities must relocate their infrastructure to accommodate DOT projects because DOT owns the land. Affected utilities include water, sewer, electrical power and numerous cable and communications carriers. All will face the expense of relocation without producing additional revenue. We must plan our budget to meet the challenge with minimal impact on our owner/customers. South Walton Utility has engaged the Florida Rural Water Association to do a rate study at no cost. When the rate study is delivered any change will be reflected in the upcoming budget. Any rate increase will only cover expenses to meet our "break even" policy.

The Board of Directors is elected from among the owner/customers of South Walton Utility Company and our goal is the best service at the minimum cost. We invite you to attend the Annual Meeting in November to review the past year and look forward to how we will meet the challenges of the new one.

Sincerely,

Michael Flynt

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.

Goodbye Diane! Hello Sierra!

Congratulations to Diane Redys on her recent retirement! After ten years at SWUCI Diane decided to join the ranks of the retired in the area.

We are pleased to welcome our new receptionist Sierra Peterson. Sierra adds a great smile and vibrant energy to the atmosphere at SWUCI.



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.

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



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**