



Pipeline

A Newsletter of South Walton Utility Co., Inc.

September 2018

IS YOUR COMMERCIAL GREASE TRAP UP TO CODE WITH OUR GREASE TRAP PROGRAM? VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION. SEE THE CUSTOMER SERVICE TAB FOR DETAILS.

SWUCI Annual Members' Meeting

November 15, 2018 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 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.

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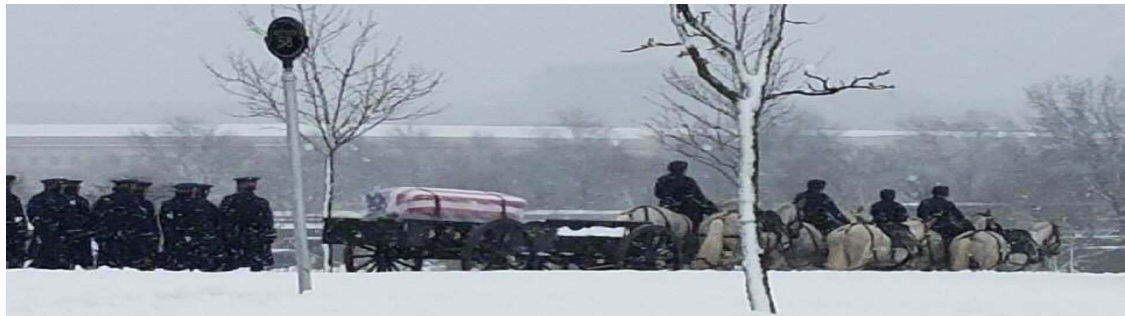
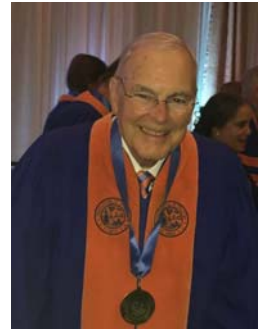
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It's hard to believe that 2018 marks 50 years of service, to you our members of South Walton and eastern Okaloosa County. We have seen many changes throughout these 50 years but one thing has remained constant and that is our mission to provide our members quality and reliable service in a responsive and equitable manner. This past year has brought with it a somber time in our company with the passing of our beloved President of the Board, Mike Flynt. He was a distinguished member of the Air Force, was highly decorated throughout his time in service to these United States, and was a valuable member of this community and utility. He will be greatly missed by all. His celebration of life was held at Arlington National Cemetery in March.

Thank you Mike for your service to South Walton Utility.



Founder's Day Celebration



October 18th 11am-1pm

Join us for our 50th anniversary celebration at 369 Miramar Beach Drive 11:00am to 1:00pm on Thursday October 18th. We will have a variety of food, drinks and desserts for you to enjoy while learning about your water and wastewater collection system. All members are invited to join us. For more information visit our website at www.swuci.org

The 411 for your utility services

You can visit our website to review your account, pay your bill, read important news bulletins, gather 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.



Each year our staff selects a project to give back for the Christmas season. This past Christmas our employees chose to adopt a family from The Angel Tree project with Caring & Sharing of South Walton. Their generosity and genuine care for this community overflowed as they filled the stockings and packed the bags for those less fortunate in our area. What a great team we have at SWUCI.



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.

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.

Current Board Members are:

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

Backflow Preventers are vital to protecting our water system. Please make sure yours are tested annually by a certified backflow testing company and provide updated reports to our office.

Water Conservation

SWUCI has 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. Here are other ways you can help conserve water.

- Check for leaking toilet flappers
- Retrofit aging plumbing fixtures
- Adjust toilet fill valves to conserve water
- Encourage guests to conserve water while on vacation
- Use Xeriscape Landscaping and keep irrigation use to a minimum.
- Know where your meter shut off valve is located.
- Wash full loads of dishes and laundry to conserve 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 14, 2018.
- 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, 2018.

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, 2018.**

- 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.

**HURRICANE SEASON IS UPON US.
 MAKE SURE YOUR HURRICANE
 PREPAREDNESS KIT IS UP TO
 DATE. VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR
 ADDITIONAL INFO**



A Letter from the President

Greetings from your Water and Sewer Utility:



It's been both an honor and a challenge to serve as your board president this year, after the passing of Michael Flynt, our distinguished president these past five years. Those of you that knew Mike are probably aware that he not only proudly served his Country; but oversaw the business of South Walton Utility with fervent passion to assure the membership that the quality of the service received was always excellent. Before I move on with my comments, if you never knew or met Mike, you need to know some of his accomplishments in addition to his superb management of the Board at South Walton Utility.

Mike had an illustrious career in the Air Force, receiving the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Defense Meritorious Service Medal. Also, he was actively involved in local community affairs, serving on Northwest Florida College Board of Trustees and President of the Senior Professionals at the College; and was a founder of the Choctawhatchee Basin Alliance; and a member of the Choctawhatchee Military Council and Air Commando Association. You can see Mike has set the bar very high, so following in Mike's footsteps is not only an honor, but a challenge to live up to the personal performance standards he has established in the Board President position at South Walton Utility.

2018 marks the 50th anniversary of South Walton Utility, Inc. In 1966 Col. Michael Grimaldi spearheaded the organization of prospective customers in Miramar Beach for the purpose of obtaining a community water and wastewater system. A not for profit certificate of Incorporation was filed on August 9, 1968, under chapter 617, Florida Statutes. The purpose of the Incorporation was to "own, construct, maintain and operate a water and wastewater system for the use and benefit of its members". We request all members to come and join us in our celebration of fifty years of service to you and the community at our Founder's Day Celebration.

Two notable projects in 2018 of several completed or in process were the relocation of utilities along Hwy 98 to support the highway widening through Miramar Beach and into Destin, and Well 13 was drilled and brought online in our designated field along Hwy 331 north of the Choctawhatchee Bay. This will assure that the members of South Walton Utility and Destin Water Users, based on growth forecasts and peak occupancy periods, will have a minimum of twenty years of continuous, quality water supply. Also, on an ongoing basis, Ms. Keeter has been evaluating the cost-effectiveness and efficiency of the South Walton Utility's overall operation and is committed to improving the bottom line to hold down future price increases to our membership.

When you turn on the tap. It's easy to see what your water bill buys. What's not as easy to see is what it takes to bring that water to your home. The miles of pipeline hidden below the ground.; the facilities that draw water from the wells; the plant where it is treated and tested. The technicians, engineers, and maintenance crews working around the clock to make sure the water is always there when you need it. Your water payments are helping to build a better tomorrow by supporting needed improvements that will keep quality water flowing for all of us – today and well into the future. All for less than a penny per gallon. We do this because we believe we are delivering more than just water service. We deliver a key resource for health, fire protection, the economy and overall quality of life.

Our exceptional Staff and the Board have tackled some of the toughest issues faced during South Walton Utility's five-decade history with resolve, debate and dedication to the Utility and the Members we serve. I am confident we are well prepared for new challenges and opportunities. My fellow Board members and I appreciate the support of our member, who also are our friends and neighbors. We invite you to attend our Board meetings and to learn more about your Utility by exploring our website: www.swuci.org.

Sincerely,

Jack Lubker
President



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



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.



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. 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 e-billing.

Automatic Draft is a hassle-free way to pay your bill on time each month. Your bank account will draft on the first business day of each month. To sign up for this service, complete and return the attached form or download the form off 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

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 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

Do we have your current email address and phone number? Please update your contact information for up to date info from our offices.

Flushable doesn't mean it is biodegradable.

Products labeled as "flushable" such as baby wipes, paper towels and diapers do not break down in the collection system and creates clogs in our pumping equipment and cause sewer overflows. We encourage you to throw these items in the trash.



Photo above: Lift Station generator



Photo far right: Well 13 motor and piping