

# Swan Creek Water District News Letter

Issue 2 July 21, 2008

## Board Members

Rick Kazmierczak, President (419) 825-5011  
Mark Fowler, Vice President (419) 825-5480  
Walt Lange, Secretary (419) 825-5792  
Bob Westmark, Treasurer (419) 825-2264  
David Schultz, Trustee (419) 826-4323

## Office Hours & Contacts

Our office hours are 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays, and 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

***Other hours are available by appointment.***

## Other Contacts

Tina Whalen, Manager  
Tom Shelley, Inspector

Phone: (419) 822-3656

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## Meetings



Meetings are held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Township Building located at 5565 County Road D and are open to the public.

Meeting minutes along with other information can be found on the Water District link of the Township website at [www.swancreektp.org](http://www.swancreektp.org)

## Public Records

Since we are a government entity, the majority of our records are considered public records. We are also required to have a policy.

We are pleased to announce that we have adopted a public records policy and it can be retrieved on the Townships Website at [www.swancreektp.org](http://www.swancreektp.org). Copies may also be obtained in our office.

## Water Main Breaks

On November 1, 2007 we had a water main break on County Road 2. This resulted in shutting off a section of the water main, leaving several residents without water for about 15 hours. Total cost of repair was \$9,828.49.

Please note that in the event of a water main break and service being interrupted, we will do our best to inform the public. A message will be left on our answering machine and the news channels will be contacted.

## Boil Alerts

Boil alerts have to be issued whenever service has to be interrupted and repairs have to be made. These boil alerts are usually necessary for at least 48 hours after service is restored. Samples have to be tested prior to lifting the alert. If you are ever under a boil alert and are not sure if it has been lifted, just boil the water until you are sure.

Whenever a boil alert is issued, it means do not drink the water without boiling it first. Bring all water to a boil, let it boil for at least one minute, and let cool before using, or use bottled water. Boiled or bottled water should be used for drinking, making ice, brushing teeth, washing dishes, and food preparation until the alert has been lifted.

## County Road 1-1

As most of us know, County Road 1-1 is closed and under construction. The County is replacing a bridge and widening the road.

Prior to the County's construction, we were informed that we had to move our water main at the bridge and lower another section further north of the bridge. The total cost for this was \$18,350. This is a perfect example of why it is important to retrieve easements for placement of the water mains. If the water main is installed in the county's right-of-way, we can be asked to move it at our cost.

## **Using Water Efficiently "Ideas for Residences"**

### Inside the Home

Toilets are the single largest water user in a home. **A leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons of water per day**, and it is estimated that nearly 20 percent of all toilets leak.

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## Get Flush With Savings

- Consider replacing your older toilet with a Water Sense labeled high-efficiency model that uses 20 percent less water and performs as well as or better than standard models. Compared to a 3.5 gallons per flush toilet, a Water Sense labeled toilet could save a family of four more than \$90 annually on their water bill, and \$2,000 over the lifetime of the toilet.
- Check for toilet leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. (Make sure to flush as soon as the test is done, since food coloring may stain the tank.)

## Accessorize Your Faucet

- Installing a simple aerator is one of the most cost-effective ways to save water—you can double the faucet's efficiency without sacrificing performance. For best results, purchase an aerator with the Water Sense label later in 2008.
- Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. A drip rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

## Clean Up With Savings

- A full bathtub can require up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses only 10 to 25 gallons.

## Lighten Your Loads

- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes or lower the water settings for smaller loads.
- Consider replacing your old washing machine with a high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR® labeled Ael, which uses up to 50 percent less water and electricity.

## Other Indoor Ideas

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in refrigerator overnight.

## Outside the Home

### Water When Needed

- Water your lawn or garden during the cool morning hours to reduce evaporation.
- Look for sprinklers that produce droplets—not mist—or use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation for trees and shrubs
- Set sprinklers to water lawns and gardens only—check that you're not watering the street.
- Try not to over water your landscaping—learn plants' water needs and water different types appropriately.

### Grow Green Grass

- Don't over fertilize. You will increase the grass's need for water.
- Raise your lawn mower blade to at least 3 inches. Taller grass promotes deeper roots, shades the root system, and holds soil moisture better than a closely cropped lawn.

### Garden With Care

- Plant climate-appropriate species. Try native plants, which don't require as much water, and group plants together by water requirements.
- Use mulch around trees and plants to help reduce evaporation and control water-stealing weeds.

### Other Outdoor Ideas

- Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing off.
- Wash the car with water from a bucket, or consider using a commercial car wash that recycles water.
- Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.

*If you have any suggestions for our next newsletter or would like more information, please feel free to contact our office via phone, fax, or by e-mail. This contact information is listed on the front of this newsletter. You may also attend one of our meetings should you have any questions or concerns.*