

The Water Connection

North Kootenai
Water and Sewer District
www.nkwsd.com



August 2014 Issue

Credit Card Payments vs ECheck Payments

When going online to make a payment, remember that the credit card companies charge 2.45%, while the echeck payments costs \$2. So it would be cheaper to use your credit card to make payments up to \$82. Any payment made over \$82, it becomes cheaper to make an echeck payment.

Safety Regulation

Anyone living near our well houses needs to be aware that you are not permitted to use fertilizer or bug killer within 50 feet of the well house. This is an important part of keeping our drinking water safe. Thank you for your cooperation.

Office Will Be Closed

We will be closed on Monday, September 1st in honor of Labor Day.



Backflow Stats

We have 1,654 backflow devices that we make sure get tested each year. This year, we contacted customers through this newsletter and three separate letters sent to individual customers. We made over 200 phone calls in an attempt to contact our customers prior to charging them. We spent countless hours talking to customers and testers to try to get the test results turned in. Of the 1,654 devices, we had 49 customers that were penalized for not having a passed test turned into our office by the deadline. A few of these customers were actually shut-off.

We are giving you this information to help you understand that North Kootenai Water District takes this very seriously. For an office of three employees, this is a mountainous job. Next year, we will not be making phone calls. Customers will have to make sure the passed test is in here by the deadline to keep from being fined. Having the test done is not enough. We have to receive a "Passed" test result.

So please make sure you pay attention to letters you receive from us next spring regarding deadlines for backflow testing. Get your test scheduled early and make sure you get a copy of the test result from your backflow tester.

Rebate Offer

Driving in your neighborhood during a rain shower and all the neighbors have their sprinklers on. What a waste! If the neighbors had a rain sensor or soil moisture sensor on their sprinkler system, they could save water and their money.

If you purchase one of these devices, the District will give you up to a \$75 rebate credit if you are the owner of a single family residence and have a copy of the proof of purchase and the UPC code from the container. You will need to fill out a form at the office, as well. This is a one-time offer. The rebate is 75% of the purchase price, up to \$75.

This rebate offer also applies to the purchase of hose bib timers, dual flush toilets, water conserving sprinkler heads, and xeriscaping your lawn. Call the office if you have any questions.

Call Before You Dig

Call 811 at least 48 hours before you dig for any reason at any depth. Utility companies will locate their lines. This is a free service to the customer.



Construction Update

The well drilling for well #5 on Lancaster Road has not gone well (no pun intended). Holt Services has been unsuccessful at drilling a well straight enough to be useable. The District has terminated the contract with Holt.

The District has contacted the other bidder on the project, O'Keefe Drilling and secured a contract to complete the well drilling project. We expect to complete the drilling phase later this month.



Conservation Tip

Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets and couplings. Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they're not as visible. But they can be just as wasteful as leaks indoors. Check frequently to keep them drip-free. Use hose washers at spigots and hose connections to eliminate leaks.

Your Water Meter

We are often asked what a water meter looks like and where is it located. Most often, the water meter is located in your lawn out by the street. It is usually a rectangular shaped box in the ground. The top is flush with the lawn. See the picture at the left for what a common meter lid looks like. When opened, the meter will typically look like the picture to the right.



You can sometimes use the meter to determine if you have a leak. Just make sure all the water in your home and lawn is turned off. Then look at the meter. If there is anything moving on the meter, water is going somewhere. In this case, you may want to call a plumber. If you find you have an underground leak that you have repaired, call the office for information on our leak policy.



Wildfire Threat

This is wildfire season. Keeping lawns and trees watered and keeping roofs cleaned off can help guard your house from wildfires, especially if you live in a rural area. On the website Allstate.com, there is some good information on how to prepare for such an emergency. One of their suggestions is to have an emergency supply kit on hand. They suggested you include the following items:

1. A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day)
2. Food that won't spoil
3. One change of clothing and footwear per person
4. A first aid kit that includes your family's prescription medications.
5. Emergency tools, including battery-powered radio, flashlight and plenty of batteries
6. An extra set of car keys and a credit card, cash or traveler's checks
7. Sanitation supplies
8. Special items for infant, elderly or disabled family members
9. An extra pair of eyeglasses
10. Important family documents stored in a waterproof container

For more wildfire emergency information, search for wildfire emergency information on your website.

Office Hours are Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed on most major holidays.

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