

# District Newsletter--December 2003

## TIPS ON INDOOR WATER CONSERVATION

- On average, each American uses 60 gallons of water every day. You can reduce your water use by as much as 30% if you are efficient.
- Check your toilets for leaks. Put a bit of food coloring in each toilet tank. DO NOT FLUSH! Check the bowl in 10 to 20 minutes. If the color has appeared in the bowl, you have a silent leak. It is probably located in or around the plunger ball or flapper valve at the bottom of the tank. Other leaks in your toilet can occur at the overflow pipe. The water level should come up to about a half inch or so below the overflow pipe. Adjust the float level control screw, if necessary, so the valve shuts off the water at that level. It is not uncommon to lose up to 100 gallons a day from one of these leaks. That adds up to more than 30,000 gallons a year!
- Do not use your toilet as a waste basket. Every time you flush a cigarette butt, facial tissue or an itty bitty spider, you waste 5 to 7 gallons of water.
- To cut down on water waste, put a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank away from operating mechanisms. In an average home, the bottles may displace and save 10 or more gallons of water a day. Do not use bricks. They tend to decompose over time and gum up your plumbing.
- Bathing is the second highest use of indoor water. Long hot showers can waste 5 to 10 gallons every unneeded minute. Limit your showers to the time it takes to soap up, wash down, and rinse off.
- Check every faucet in your home for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 to 20 gallons a day.
- Turn off the water after you get your toothbrush wet and fill a glass for mouth rinsing.
- Rinse your razor in the sink. Fill the bottom of the sink with a few inches of warm water. This will rinse your blade just as well as running water.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine at full capacity. Dishwashers use 12 gallons per run and washing machines use 40 gallons at full load. If your machines can be adjusted for a lesser load, then please remember to do so when your washers are at less than capacity. Don't forget to check the hoses for leaks.
- If you do dishes by hand, use wash and rinse basins rather than running water.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator in a covered glass pitcher or jar. Running tap water to cool it off is wasteful. Besides, cold water directly from the fridge tastes better.
- Install water saving devices and flow restrictors as well as low flow aerators for your faucets.
- The district has a limited amount of water saving devices available free of charge at the Utah office. These are available on a first come, first serve basis. Items available are low flow aerators, low flow shower heads and toilet tank banks. We also have dye tablets to test your toilets for leaks. Come on by and pick some up!
- Check all shut off valves under your sinks and toilets for leaks as well. Be sure you locate and check the most important one of all, the main shut off valve. The most likely location for your main shut off would be where the water supply pipe enters your home, near your clothes washer hookup, or near your water heater. Be sure you mark it with a colorful tag, paint or bright ribbon. Make it easy to see. If the worst happens, and we hope it never does, you'll have to find it quickly.

## Winterize Plumbing

Should you vacate your home during the winter months, don't forget to drain the water system and traps under the sinks.



## Web Site

We have a new website at [www.greenmountainwater.org](http://www.greenmountainwater.org). Our site has a plethora of information. Our latest newsletter, rates, district information, drought restrictions, backflow prevention requirements and forms are some of the many things that will be posted on our site. Be sure to check it out!

## Did you know?

In our district, the water and sewer service lines are considered the homeowners property. This includes the part of the service line that extends into the city street. Any and all repairs are the property owners responsibility.

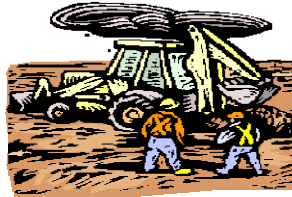


### Bill Payment Alternatives

Green Mountain Water offers many ways to pay your water and sewer bill. Here are some options:

- By Mail
- Payment Window
- Drive-Up Drop Box (located in our parking lot)
- Check by Phone
- Electronic Funds Transfer
- Credit Card

### Did You Know?



A large portion of the District's water and sewer mains are over 40 years old. This is the second largest expense to our District. System replacements for 2004 are projected to be \$ 1,845,000.00. The following is a few of our projects planned for the year:

- Install an interconnecting main from our tank near Green Mountain High School to our supply line at S. Welch Circle and W. Utah Ave.
- Install/Repair our sewer main in W. Utah Circle.

We appreciate all of your patience during these necessary improvements.

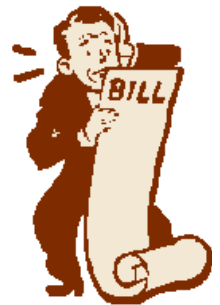
### Water Meter Access

If you have a water meter located behind the sidewalk, please keep shrubs and ground cover trimmed so that the meter reader can have easy access to your water meter. If you have a water meter read-out located on the front of your home, please make sure it is accessible.



### Shut Off Notices

Due to the increasing cost of shut-off procedures, reminder phone calls for non-payment, will no longer occur. Instead, a final notice will be mailed. If payment is not received by the due date noted, termination of service will occur immediately. If you believe that you have received the notice in error, contact the office at 303-985-1581.



### 2004 Budget News

-Explanation of Rates and Their Use:

Green Mountain Water is a non-profit organization and is not funded by any Bonds, Taxes, or Grants. We are required to a balanced budget every year and have to file our budgets with the State. 88% of our water and sewer fees are paid to Denver Water and Metro Wastewater respectively. 12% of our water and sewer rates pay for our capital improvements and are invested to pay for future projects. To run as a business and to pay for our overhead we charge a monthly service charge (\$10.00 per

### Board Members:

Wanda Carlson

Gloria Dowdell

billing cycle) to cover these types of expenses (i.e. Insurance, Electric, Phone, etc..).

The Denver Water Department has increased our cost of water \$.11 per 1000 gallons and Metro Wastewater has increased our cost of sewer treatment by \$.05 per 1000 gallons. The District's water and sewer bill accounts for 64% of our budgeted expenses. Therefore we must pass along these increases to our customers.

The following is an outline of rate increases that were approved as part of our 2004 budget and will go into effect on billings after January 1, 2004:

<b>Water</b>	<b>Tier</b>	<b>Old Rate</b>	<b>New Rate</b>
Residential per thousand gallons	0-18	\$2.20	\$2.51
	19-30	\$2.31	\$2.62
	31-60	\$2.42	\$2.73
	61-90	\$6.00	\$6.00
	<b>Newest Tier</b>	<b>90+</b>	
Commercial		\$2.42	\$2.72
Sewer per thousand gallons			
Residential		\$1.35	\$1.60
Commercial		\$1.45	\$1.70
Monthly Service Fee-Residential \$10.00/billing cycle		\$5.00	Same
Other Charges			
Return Check Fee		\$20.00	Same
Shut Off/Turn On Fee			
1st Time		\$50.00	Same
2nd Time +		\$75.00	
Account Transfer Fee		\$25.00	Same

Please note the addition of a fifth tier to our water rate schedule. This tier has been implemented to stress the importance of water conservation. Please keep these rates in mind during the next spring and summer and use outdoor water wisely.

Kenneth Kroneberger

Tom Malone

Adam Paul

2004 will be an election year for two positions on our Board of Directors.

If interested in running for a seat on the board, homeowners of the District can contact the District office for further information.

The second largest expense the District faces is replacement of old and deteriorated water and sewer lines, which account for 92% of the Capital budget. System replacements for 2004 are projected to be \$1,845,000.00. To meet these increasing costs we must increase the current water rates by another \$.15 per thousand gallons.

This increase will only cover 1/3 of our Capital Improvements this year. The remainder will come from Capitol Reserves generated by tap fees.

### Did You Know

Property owners/management companies are responsible for calling in final billings when a tenant moves in or out of their property. A \$25.00 transfer fee will be charged with each final meter reading and will be added to the final bill.

Duplicate bills will be sent to property owners/management companies upon request.