

Main Lines @ MCBWSD

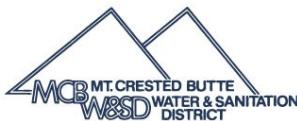


**DECEMBER
2014**

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What Does Santa Claus Charge For Services?



The call came in on a December morning with the caller ID of "Santa Claus". Decided not to answer the phone, thinking "seriously, what will telemarketers think of next." Later there was a voicemail. The message was about water rates from the Mayor of Santa Claus, Georgia. Really - there is a Santa Claus, Georgia. (check Google maps).

Small water/wastewater systems like this one face many unique challenges as they try to deliver critical services. Small water systems comprise more than 94% of the nation's public water systems and face different obstacles than their larger counterparts, including geographic isolation, small staff size, growing infrastructure needs and small customer bases. The Mayor had requested information because he was interested in the City's wastewater charges, of which they were charging a flat \$8 monthly fee. Fast forward a few years, the flat fee is now a \$25 base fee for 3,000 gallons of wastewater. This small utility has made major strides to increase much needed revenues.

As hard as these decisions are to make, there is ample evidence that rate increases are needed to keep pace with rising costs and to tackle the backlog of necessary projects. Each utility should set their own rates based on their costs and needs, and having accurate information can help. Like Santa Claus, taking steps to become more financially secure is a fiduciary responsibility of all water/wastewater utilities.

Recent Employee Accomplishments:

- ★ Steve Reep - Water Plant Operator
Passed Water B State Certification
- ★ Bryan Burks - Wastewater Plant Operator
Passed Wastewater B State Certification
- ★ Rob Houston - Wastewater Plant Operator
Passed Wastewater B State Certification
- ★ Brian Kroha - Water Plant Operator
Passed Wastewater C State Certification

★ Congrats All ★

Newsletter News:

This newsletter is going on-line!

We are going green and saving green. Our quarterly newsletter will now be available on our website, www.mcbwsd.com under Newsletters starting with the March 2015 edition. To help you save time, a link will also appear on our home page. A reminder will appear on your bill.

If you are really into the paper copy, please let us know at info@mcbwsd.com and we'll be glad to mail you your very own newsletter.

Adapted from //efc.web.unc.edu article by Stacey Berahzer

Main Lines



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR RATES & FEES INCREASE

The Board of Directors will hold a public hearing on January 13, 2015 at 5:00 pm at the District Office at 100 Gothic Road, Mt Crested Butte, Colorado to consider raising rates & fees for 2015. Any interested elector of the District may inspect the rate notice and file or register any objections thereto at any time prior to the final adoption. The proposed base fee for water/sewer user rates will increase from \$68.30 per month to \$70.40. Availability fees will not change. File notices at info@mcbwsd.com.

WHAT IS IT WORTH?

Would you pay a \$1.00 a day to turn on the faucet? The proposed 2015 water rate will be \$33.15 per month for 11,000 gallons – or \$1.06 per day for almost unlimited indoor use for a family of four. At bottled water prices; 1 gallon = 4 quarts, 1 quart = 2 pints, 1 pint = 2 cups, 1 cup = 8 oz. so 1 gallon = 4 x 2 x 2 x 8 oz. = 128 oz. Or it would take 8 bottles of 16 oz. water bottles to equal one gallon, at \$1.00 each equals \$8.00/gallon! Now times that by 11,000.

What about wastewater? The flat rate is \$37.25 per month or \$1.20 per day for all that water/sewer to make its way to the wastewater plant no matter how much you turn or push those handles.

At a total of \$70.40 per month that's a pretty good deal.

When you turn on the faucet or push the handle, remember, we have already built water and wastewater plants, installed miles and miles of pipe, pumped water uphill and down and done more tests than you can imagine, all to make sure you can safely and conveniently turn or push those handles 24 / 7 / 365.

FREEZING TEMPS ARE HERE

Prevent a disaster at your house with the following tips:

1. Open cabinet doors to let the heat reach the pipes
2. Insulate pipes or use heat tape, especially crawl spaces
3. Protect and insulate around your water meter
4. Insulate hot water pipes for energy efficiency
5. Close or cover foundation vents
6. Know where your main water shut-off is located!

U.S. WATER CONSUMPTION FALLS

The use of water, fresh and saline, in the United States in 2010 was the lowest in 45 years, a U.S. Geological Survey report says.

"The 45-year low shows the positive trends in conservation that stem from improvements in water-use technologies and management," the report said.

In 2010, the latest data available, overall use of water, fresh and saline, was 365 billion gallons a day, the report said. This is a 13 percent reduction in use compared with a total of 410 billion gallons a day in 2005, which itself was the lowest annual use since before 1970.

According to the report, among the 12 top users of water, Colorado was the eighth-largest.

Colorado used 848 million gallons of public-supplied and 38 million gallons of self-supplied (well or stream) water a day.

The state consumed 9.71 billion gallons a day for irrigation, 37 million for livestock, 122 million for aquaculture and 130 million for industry.

California was the largest consumer, accounting for 11 percent of all water use and 10 percent of fresh water use, which included what the state receives through the 1922 Colorado River Compact.

Article adapted from the Durango Herald, published Nov 6, 2014 - By Dale Rodebaugh, staff writer

HOW DO WE USE WATER?

Do you know the role water plays in your life and all the ways you use water? There are five main water uses.

Here is the first.

GROWING FOOD - Agricultural Use

Eating fruits and vegetables, you are using water. Irrigation water plays a large part of the water used, without irrigation in our arid climate, there would be no local produce.

Almost every crop grown relies on irrigation water, which comes from our rivers and streams. Water is the backbone of our agriculture - from the famous Olathe sweet corn to cattle.

Not only do agriculture fields supply crops, they also provide habitat for wildlife such as deer, rabbits and birds.

Watch the next issue for the second water use.