



Water Line

Volume 20, No. 2

December 2009

There is some GOOD News to share with you...

As this newsletter is sent out, the District is adopting its Budget for 2010. The District's Board of Directors recognizes the economic conditions locally and have stated *"this is not the time to increase water rates"* that have been in effect since January 1, 2004.

No
Rate
Increase
for 2010!

In developing the 2010 Budget, each department was asked to trim at least 5% from their operational expenses. In order to accomplish the necessary reductions without sacrificing essential services, several broad changes will be implemented:

- Additional cross training of staff to work in multiple departments
- Vacant positions remaining unfilled temporarily
- Increasing use of advanced technologies to improve efficiency
- Wage freezes and a reduction in employee benefits

In addition to these changes, the District will utilize a portion of its reserves, if necessary, to combat increased costs and decreasing revenues in order to retain our current rate structure.

Unlike other similar organizations, the Clifton Water District does not receive revenue from property taxes or sales taxes. Our operating expenses are paid by the money we receive from our water rates. In addition to covering operating expenses, an important objective of an effective rate structure is to build a reserve account to prepare for known future expenses associated with the replacement, upgrade and repair of our system.

What is the future of our water rates? A Cost of Service Rate Analysis is prepared annually to evaluate how effective our rates are in covering our expenses and to determine when rate adjustments are necessary. Like our customers, we continue to experience increases in the cost of products and services that make it more difficult to balance revenues and expenses. Your water rate for 2010 is not changing. However, in the future it will be necessary for the District to implement small incremental adjustments of the rate structure. We believe small increments are a more effective method of covering escalating costs without causing a *rate shock* to our customers.

Through the District's recent and continued cost containment efforts and the effective management of assets we are able to provide our customers with the good news of stable rates for 2010.

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- Transparency Notice
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Board Members:

John L. Ballagh
- Chairman

Doralyn Genova
- Vice Chairman

Brian Woods
- Treasurer

Robert Burger
- Secretary

Alan Hassler
- Director



SPECIAL DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY NOTICE – 2010
Pursuant to Section 32-1-809, Colorado Revised Statutes

Name of Special District	Clifton Water District	
Address and telephone number of district's principal business office	510 34 Road Clifton, CO 81520 970-434-7328	
Name and telephone number of manager or other primary contact person for district	Dale Tooker, Manager 970-434-7328	
Time and place designated for regular board meetings	First Thursday of each month at 5:00 p.m. Clifton Water District Office, 510 34 Rd, Clifton CO 81520	
Posting place designated for meeting notice (as per §24-6-402(2)(c) , C.R.S.)	The Clifton Water District Office and the following three additional locations; Clifton Sanitation District #2 Office, Clifton Fire Department, and the Mesa County Clerk and Records Office Clifton Branch	
District mill levy	0 mills	
Total ad valorem tax revenue received by district during 2009	\$0	
Names of board members	(1) John L. Ballagh <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This office will be on the May 2010 ballot <input type="checkbox"/> Two year term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Four year term	(2) Doralyn Genova <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This office will be on the May 2010 ballot <input type="checkbox"/> Two year term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Four year term
	(3) Brian Woods <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This office will be on the May 2010 ballot <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two year term <input type="checkbox"/> Four year term	(4) Robert Burger <input type="checkbox"/> This office will be on the May 2010 ballot <input type="checkbox"/> Two year term <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Four year term
	(5) Alan Hassler <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This office will be on the May 2010 ballot <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Two year term <input type="checkbox"/> Four year term	
Date of next regular election	May 4, 2010	
Self-nomination forms to be a candidate for district board member may be obtained from	Name: David Reinertsen, Assistant Manager Contact information: 970-434-7328	
Self-nomination forms to be a district board member should be returned to	Name: David Reinertsen, Assistant Manager Contact information: 970-434-7328	
Completed self-nomination forms must be received by the district by	February 26, 2010, no later than 5:00 p.m.	
District election results will be posted on these websites:	Secretary of State www.sos.state.co.us	District website: www.cliftonwaterdistrict.org
Applications to request permanent mail-in voter status	May be obtained from: Mesa County Clerk and Recorder Or Online from Secretary of State: www.elections.colorado.gov	And may be returned to: Mesa County Clerk and Recorder
Notice completed by:	Name: Dale Tooker Title: District Manager E-mail: dtooker@cliftonwaterdistrict.org	Notice Dated: November 17, 2009 Some information herein may be subject to change.

Helping Customers Avoid Discontinuation of Service

We understand that our customers occasionally have difficulty paying for their water service. Since it is as important to us to provide water as it is for you to have it, the District utilizes several methods of notification and payment options intended to provide our customers with sufficient time to make payment and avoid having their water discontinued.

A Discontinuation of Service Notice is first mailed out to our customers when an account is nearing 60 days past due. This written notice is followed shortly thereafter with an automated phone call. Customers receiving these notifications should contact our office immediately to verify their account balance due. As a customer service we do accept credit card payments over the phone to help our customers bring their account current immediately.

If payment has not been made one week before the due date the customer will receive a second automated phone call. Once an account is scheduled for discontinuation we must have payment in our office before 5 p.m. on the due date to avoid shut off the next day.

Since we implemented this phone notification service many of our customers have been able to avoid having their water service disconnected.

District Cutting Costs by Utilizing Technology

The District continues to implement the latest technologies to provide you with quality water at a reasonable cost. A significant development in the use of technology is that over 7,500 (71%) of the District's meters have now been converted to radio transmitted readings. Two years ago the average amount of time it took for District personnel to read each meter was 40 seconds. The average time per read is now down to 18 seconds! This is a 42 hour per month reduction in personnel time required for meter reading and saves the District and YOU money.

The District recently initiated a multi-year project to utilize Geographic Positioning System (GPS) technology to identify and mark all Distribution assets. Distribution staff have now been provided with updated maps in every service vehicle that will enable them to more quickly locate and shut off water valves when a leak occurs. Repairs can be made and service returned with less down time affecting our customers. This is just one example of how advanced technology is beneficial to YOU the customer.

Employees Celebrate *30 Years* of Service to the District!

In 2009, the District recognized three staff members for each of their *30* years of employment with the Clifton Water District. Several of the District employees weren't even born yet when Carey Blount, Violet Church and Dale Tooker began working for the District in 1979.

Carey Blount is a Class A Certified Water Treatment Plant Operator who began his tenure at the District's original treatment plant and now utilizes state-of-the-art technology to treat water at the Charles A. Strain Water Treatment Plant.

Violet Church is the Billing Clerk and has made multiple transitions in manual and automated processes from tracking 3,500 customer accounts on handwritten ledger cards to today's computerized billing of 11,000 accounts.

Dale Tooker began working in the Distribution system and Water Treatment Plant while a student at Mesa State College and after gaining experience in all facets of operations he became the District Manager in 1996.

The District is also fortunate to have two other employees with over 28 years of service – David Larsen and Brian Shelley. Total years of District employment among the 23 full time and 3 part time employees is 292 years! This is an average of almost 15 years per employee!

The dedication and leadership provided by experienced employees is invaluable to the District as we develop and maintain a workforce that is highly trained to provide service well into the future.

District Employees Contribute to United Way



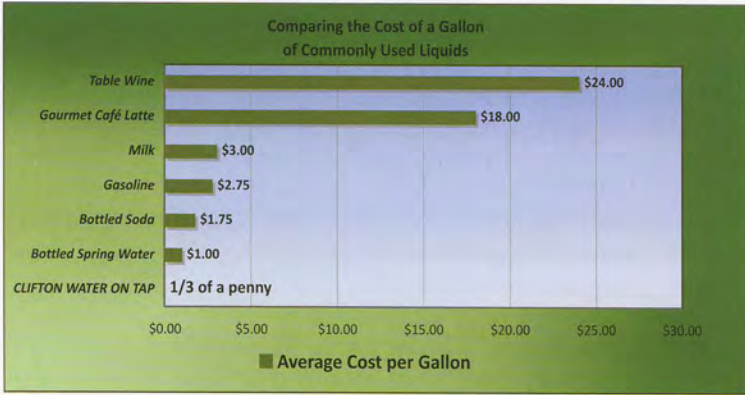
We are proud to report that the District's annual fundraising campaign for United Way generated \$5,275! This is \$2,000 more than the previous year and is an average contribution of nearly \$220 per District employee! Money donated to the United Way are used to fund a variety of "local" service organizations.

The annual fundraising campaign includes employee-led events that raise money through participation fees and encourages team building across the departments. The fundraising week culminated with a Pork and Beans lunch that was also attended and contributed to by City of Grand Junction Water Department, Clifton Sanitation District, and Grand Junction Drainage District employees.

How Green Is Your Water??

This edition's "Green" section focuses on the money saving value of tap water.

We all know that drinking water from disposable bottles results in a large amount of plastic trash that piles up in the landfill but have you given much thought to the **cost** of drinking water from plastic bottles? Have you ever considered the cost difference between tap water, bottled water and other commonly used liquids?



In addition to the value of tap water compared to these other common liquids, we get to easily, conveniently and cost effectively use tap water for taking showers and washing clothes. How many bottles of spring water would it take for one bath? Approximately 40 dollars worth! It's a good thing we don't have to take showers and wash our clothes with bottled water!

Try this experiment for one month: If you normally drink bottled water perhaps you can try drinking water from a glass or refilling plastic bottles with tap water. Every time you do this, take \$1.00 from your wallet and put it into a jar. At the end of the month see how much "green" you have in that jar. The more persons in your family, the more you could potentially save!



Clifton Water District
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Clifton, CO 81520

Phone: (970) 434-7328
Website: www.cliftonwaterdistrict.org

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