

IN THE PIPE

NEWSLETTER

Fall/Winter 2018

No. 24

WCSA Receives Community Development Block Grant

State Funding Enables WCSA to Begin Rattle Creek Water Line Extension Project

The Washington County Service Authority was recently awarded a \$175,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) by the commonwealth of Virginia. The grant was one of three CDBG Construction Ready Water and Sewer Fund Awards, along with 12 CDBG Competitive Awards, announced by Gov. Ralph Northam in September for 2018.

The funding will be used for WCSA's Rattle Creek Water Line Extension Project, which will provide water service for 14 residences that currently rely on wells or springs for their drinking water. The project is expected to begin by early winter and be completed by the spring of 2019.

"We are excited to receive this grant from the commonwealth and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the Rattle Creek project," says Robbie Cornett, general manager for WCSA. "It is our goal to provide exceptional water and wastewater service at a reasonable cost to our existing customers, as well as expand our water distribution and wastewater collection systems to better serve the needs of the residents in our community. These funds will enable WCSA to complete the needed improvements to provide our Rattle Creek neighbors with access to a reliable source of clean drinking water."

More than \$10.9 million in funding was provided in this year's CDBG awards to 14 localities throughout the commonwealth for 15 housing rehabilitation, downtown revitalization, and water and sewer projects. Established in 1982, CDBG is a federally funded program administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development.



Rattle Creek Road

Virginia annually receives an average of approximately \$18.5 million in grant funds to be distributed to eligible units of local government for planning and implementing projects. These projects must focus on critical community development needs, including housing, infrastructure and economic development.

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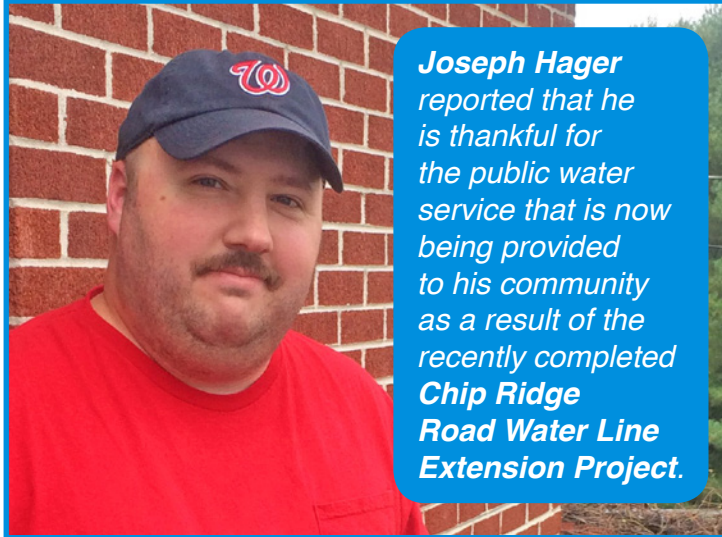
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WCSA Project Updates

To learn more about WCSA projects, visit www.wcsawater.com.

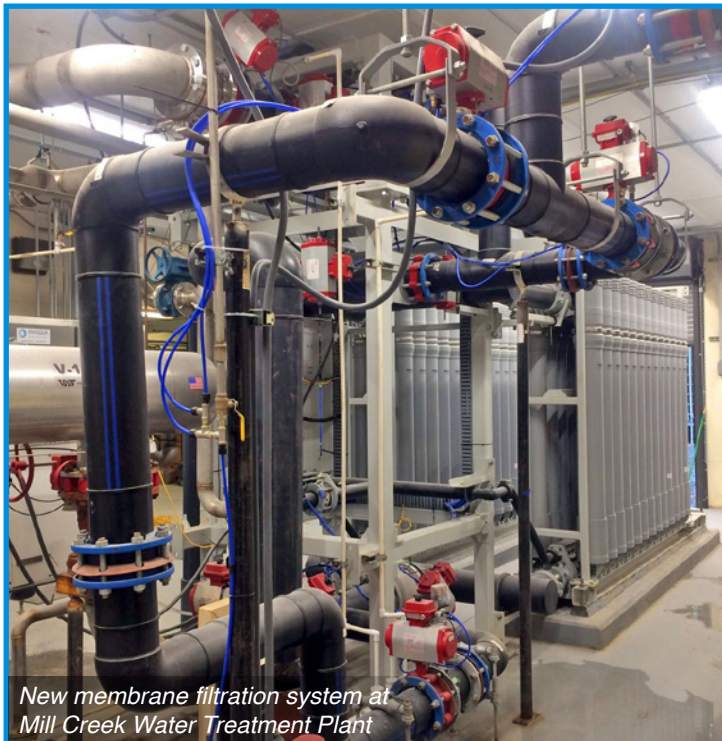
Recently Completed Projects:

The **Chip Ridge Water Line Extension Project** provides water service for new customers along Chip Ridge Road. Construction began in May and was completed in August.



Ongoing Projects:

The **Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project** will provide a new membrane filtration system and additional repairs, replacements and upgrades to the water treatment plant. Construction began in February 2017 and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2018.



Upcoming Projects:

Construction is expected to begin in the early winter of 2018-2019 on the **Sugar Cove Road Water Line Extension Project**, which is currently in the final design stages. The project is expected to be completed by the spring of 2019.

WCSA recently received Community Development Block Grant funding from the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development for the **Rattle Creek Road Water Line Extension Project**, which will provide water service for 14 residences that currently rely on wells or springs for their drinking water. The project is expected to start in the early winter of 2018-2019 and be completed by the spring of 2019.



Designs are complete on the **Rich Valley Road Water Line Extension Project**. Construction is expected to begin during the winter of 2019 and be completed by the summer of 2019.

The **Galvanized Line Replacement — Phase 3 Project** is the third step in a three-phase project to replace all galvanized pipe in WCSA's distribution system over the next several years. The project is expected to be advertised for bids in the fall of 2018. 💧



Intersection of Route 700 and Rattle Creek Road

The grants are a key resource in helping communities fund economic and community development projects that address their local needs and help improve the Virginia economy.

The CDBG Construction Ready Water and Sewer Fund provides assistance to projects that seek to provide public

water or sewer service to communities made up of at least 60 percent low- to moderate-income households. Funds are distributed on a first-come, first-served basis from Jan. 1 through the end of September. 💧

Did You Know?

The water that flows alongside Parks Mill has long served the residents and livestock of Washington County. Located south of Abingdon on Route 672, the 18th-century, water-powered grist mill sits along Fifteen Mile Creek, which originates around the River Knobs and flows into the north branch of the South Fork of the Holston River.

The mill was constructed in 1790 by Oliver Alexander and was sold to the Parks family in 1806. While the mill unfortunately burned from the cannons that were fired during the Civil War, the Parks family reconstructed the mill to its current three-story structure in 1865.

For many years, Parks Mill produced a variety of custom-ground livestock feeds, including corn meal, oat and wheat flour. The 200-year-old facility, which operates with three runs of millstones and roller mills, is still in excellent condition. The mill uses a sluice gate



Parks Mill

and wheel to generate the flow of water from Fifteen Mile Creek, enabling the water wheel to turn, thus providing power to grind the grain. To date, Parks Mill still has the capability of grinding grits and cornmeal, and has served as a popular attraction for Washington County residents and tourists. 💧

Don't Let Clogged Pipes Ruin Your Holiday Season

The Dos and Don'ts for Handling Grease



The holidays are upon us, and as Washington County residents are preparing scrumptious meals for their family and friends, it's important to avoid cooking up a plumbing disaster within your household drains and sewers.

Grease is a byproduct that is produced when cooking with meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter or margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, dressings and dairy products. Unfortunately, many homeowners believe it's acceptable to wash grease down the sink on an occasional basis, especially if they include commercial additives that claim to dissolve grease. However, these products still allow grease to travel and stick to the inside of private and public sewer lines, and will eventually block the entire pipe over time.


A clogged pipe can result in raw sewage overflowing into your home, your neighbor's home, a business, parks, yards and streets, along with a costly cleanup from a local plumber and/or sewer department, potential contact with bacteria and disease-causing organisms, and undesirable odors.

Here are a few tips on how to appropriately dispose of cooking grease and oils to avoid adding additional stress to your pipes and wallet.

Do:

- Allow grease, meat fats and cooking oil to cool, then place in non-recyclable containers (such as empty soup or vegetable cans) and discard in your regular garbage.
- Use paper towels to remove any residual grease or oils from dishes, pots and pans prior to washing them.

Do Not:

- Pour cooking oil, bacon grease, salad dressings, sauces or pan drippings down sinks, toilets, street gutters or storm drains.
- Rinse hot water or add soap over dishes, pots and pans, fryers or other utensils to remove oil and grease. The grease will eventually cool and harden in your pipes, and can result in a blocked sewer line.
- Dispose of any kind of food down the drain. Non-greasy leftovers can also plug your home's pipes and septic lines, so it's always a good idea to dispose of any food in your regular garbage.
- Use cloth towels or rags to remove food from or to clean greasy or oily dishes. Cloth items tend to retain grease or oils, which will eventually end up in the sewer once they are washed. 



WCSA Calendar

WCSA offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Thanksgiving Nov. 22 and 23
Christmas Dec. 25
New Year's Day Jan. 1



Board Meetings

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

Nov. 26, 2018
Dec. 17, 2018
Jan. 28, 2019

Board meetings are held at WCSA in the E.W. Potts Board Room at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Actual dates may vary. Please contact our office to confirm meeting schedule.

Customer Contact Information

Should WCSA need to contact you regarding your water service, we generally do so via text message, email or telephone call. If you prefer not to be contacted by one or more of these methods, please contact our office at 276-628-7151. If you would like to be contacted, but are not sure we have your information, please contact us at 276-628-7151 or inquiry@wcsa-water.com with that information.

E-CHECK PAYMENTS

WCSA NOW OFFERS A 24/7 E-CHECK METHOD FOR PHONE AND ONLINE PAYMENTS. YOU MAY PAY BY CALLING 276-628-7151 AND CHOOSING OPTION 2, OR BY ACCESSING YOUR ONLINE ACCOUNT. CALL CUSTOMER SERVICE AT 276-628-7151 FOR DETAILS.

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