

IN THE PIPE



NEWSLETTER

Winter/Spring 2018

No. 21

WCSA’s Route 58 Corridor Water System Improvements Project Will Provide Ample Water Flow for 2,000 Customers

Most people know that heavy rains and snowmelt can negatively affect the water quality in a region’s rivers, streams and springs. Many people, however, are not aware that an earthquake — even one located thousands of miles away — can also disturb area water sources.

Weather-related and seismic events can cause turbidity, or cloudiness, in a local waterway, which can increase the rate of disease-causing pathogens. Since local waterways serve as source waters for public water systems such as WCSA, these utilities must meet stringent federal drinking water standards to ensure water quality for their customers. That means a public utility may sometimes have to temporarily close down a particular source until the increased turbidity settles out.

Such is the case with Reservation Spring, the main water source serving WCSA customers who reside in Taylors Valley, Damascus, Alvarado, Bethel and other areas along the Route 58 corridor. This artesian spring originates in Taylors Valley and flows by gravity to the Middle Fork Drinking Water Plant. Occasionally, when increased turbidity occurs due to weather-related or seismic events, WCSA temporarily shuts down the source. Water for the communities served by Reservation Spring is then supplied from alternative sources until the turbidity dissipates.

As the need for water increased along the Route 58 corridor, it was determined that Reservation Spring was not sufficient to meet the greater demand, and the spring was connected to WCSA’s main water system at the Middle Fork Drinking Water Plant in the 1990s to add capacity flowing to those communities. Since the water pressure at Middle Fork is higher



Route 58 Corridor Water System

than the Reservation Spring system, a pressure-reducing valve was installed when the connection was made.

“When water demand along the Route 58 corridor exceeds what the system can produce, the water storage tank near WCSA’s home office in Abingdon augments the supply,” says Robbie Cornett, general manager of WCSA. “However, because of the current system arrangement, pressure fluctuations occur for the customers in that area of Washington County. The pressure issues become even more pronounced when WCSA must temporarily shut down Reservation Spring and water must be hauled to Taylors Valley by tanker truck.”

A project that has been under way since last fall is intended to address these problems. Approximately 2,000 current WCSA customers will benefit from the Route 58 Corridor Water System Improvements Project.

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WCSA Project Updates

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

Recently Completed Projects:

Construction for the **Ritchie Road Water Line Extension Project** began in November 2017 and was completed in January. The project provides service to new residents, while also replacing galvanized line to offer updated service to existing customers.

Ongoing Projects:

The **Mill Creek Water Treatment Plant Improvements Project** will feature 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 spring of 2018.

The **Exit 13 Phase 3 Sewer Project** will provide sewer service to portions of McCray Drive and the Foxfire subdivision. Construction began in August 2017 and is expected to be completed in April 2018.



Exit 13 Phase 3 Sewer Project

The **Route 58 Corridor Water System Improvements Project** will include improvements for the water system serving the town of Damascus, Alvarado and areas east of South Holston Lake. Construction of a new water storage tank began in October 2017, along with installation of water lines in Denton Valley and on Drake Road. The project is expected to be completed in the summer of 2018.



Exit 13 Phase 3 Sewer Project

Upcoming Projects:

The **Chip Ridge Water Line Extension Project** was recently advertised for bids and will provide water service for new customers along Chip Ridge Road. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2018.

WCSA has received funding for several proposed water line projects. The **Rattle Creek Road, Rich Valley Road and Sugar Cove Road** projects are currently in the design stages, and construction is expected to begin by the summer of 2018.

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 will be advertised for bids during the summer of 2018. 💧

Employee News

Congratulations!

WCSA congratulates **Joey Forster** for recently completing the requirements for the Tennessee Water Distribution Grade 1 License. He also holds a Class 1 Water License. Joey joined WCSA's Filter Plant team in 2013. 💧



The project's improvements include greater water storage capacity in this portion of WCSA's water system and an improved backup water supply source. The project will also address pressure fluctuations, as well as fluctuating fire flow capacities.

The project's main component is a new water storage tank for this area of Washington County. The tank, which will be located less than a mile south of Damascus Middle School, will provide a stable hydraulic grade line to the water system, allowing for more consistent water pressure and enhanced fire flow. In addition, WCSA is replacing and adding water lines to the Denton Valley community and replacing lines on

Drake Road in order to provide proper water flow. This project will also enable WCSA to provide bulk water sales to the neighboring Intermont Utility District, where approximately 112 residents in Sullivan County, Tennessee, will gain access to a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

"We expect to complete this important project next summer," Cornett says. "While we'll still have to deal with turning Reservation Spring on and off from time to time and hauling water to Taylors Valley, the impact on our customers along the Route 58 corridor won't be noticed like it is now. They will be able to enjoy an ample water supply and steady water pressure." 💧

Meet Our New Commissioner

WCSA welcomes Tim Orfield to our board of commissioners. A resident of Meadowview, Virginia, Mr. Orfield was appointed on Dec. 1, 2017, to fill the unexpired term of Eddie Copenhaver, which will end on June 30, 2021. Mr. Orfield represents the Monroe Election District. 💧

WCSA's board of commissioners also includes:

Mike White, chairman (Madison District)
Jim McCall, vice chairman (Taylor District)
David Campbell (Harrison District)
Dwain Miller (Tyler District)
Vernon Smith (Wilson District)
Kenneth Taylor (Jefferson District)

Did You Know?

Located in the Ridge and Valley Province of the Appalachian region, Washington County is known for its historical facilities, healthful climate, flowing creeks and three rivers — the North Fork, Middle Fork and South Fork of the Holston River. At the junction of the South and Middle Forks near Abingdon, a few remnants of a little-known piece of the county's history can be found.

In the spring of 1881, an enterprising individual named Hugh Neely divided up 30 acres of property he owned, and laid out streets with patriotic names such as Liberty, Freedom, Independence Republic and Union. He named the town Carrickfergus for the port city in Northern Ireland from which many Scots-Irish embarked for America — and which is also one of Ireland's oldest towns.

Neely cleared the land of its thick stands of pine, oak and poplar trees, graded roads, and marked each lot's corners with piles of stones. Space along the banks of both rivers was reserved for public landings for boats and barges that might be used to ship products down the



river. Washington County residents quickly developed a strong interest in the town, and Neely sold all but three of 42 lots at prices ranging from \$10 to \$25. Plans for the town included a "house of worship" and a "house of education for the youth."

Unfortunately, Carrickfergus is said to have been built in a flood plain, and the buyers of the lots never established any shops, houses or other structures that would allow the town to survive. To date, there is no record of any other buildings having been built in Carrickfergus other than Neely's own home, and the purchasers are said to have forfeited their investments. All that remains are some scattered piles of stones marking the lots' corners, the ruins of a lone log home, and 38 transactions recorded in deed books. 💧

Source: Historical Society of Washington County, Virginia

Fix a Leak Week

Did you know that household leaks waste more than 1 trillion gallons of water annually throughout the U.S.?

According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the average household's leaks can account for **more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year**. In fact, 10 percent of all U.S. homes have leaks that waste at least 90 gallons per day. That's a lot of money flowing down the drain!

The EPA's 10th annual **Fix a Leak Week will be held next month** (March 19 – 25). While this event spotlights household leak detection and repairs through nationwide contests and fun runs, **you don't have to wait until then to find and fix any leaks in and around your home** — and start saving valuable water and money.

It's not the little leak that wastes water, but the little leak that keeps on leaking that wastes water, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) — the science agency of the U.S. Department of Interior. But because a leak seems so little is the reason why we tend to ignore it.

How does a little leak turn into a big waste of water? Many people are surprised to learn that the largest use of household water is from flushing the toilet. Many of our toilets have a continuous leak amounting to around 22 gallons per day, which translates into about 8,000 gallons of wasted water per year.

A single faucet that only drips a small amount can also add up to a lot of wasted water. One drip per minute translates into approximately 34 gallons per year. If a water line coming into your home leaks a gallon of water every 10 minutes, you are losing 144 gallons per day, or more than 52,000 gallons per year.

Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets or showerheads, and leaky valves are usually easy to fix, saving homeowners approximately 10 percent on their water bills.

While estimates vary, each household member uses an average of **80 to 100 gallons of water per day**, according to the USGS. This includes all household water usage, such as showers, toilets, dishwashers and washers. If your water usage significantly exceeds that figure for an extended period of time, you definitely need to check your home for any possible leaks.

To check for leaks in your home, first determine whether you're wasting water, then identify the source of the leak.

Leak detection tips include:

- Check your water usage during a colder month — such as February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are likely some significant leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. Any change in the meter indicates a probable leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak.
- To check for surface leaks, examine faucet gaskets and pipe fittings for any water outside of the pipe.



2018 01 WCSA Calendar

WCSA offices will be closed on the following holidays:

Presidents' Day Feb. 19
Good Friday March 30



Board Meetings

UPCOMING BOARD MEETING DATES

Feb. 26, 2018
March 26, 2018
April 23, 2018

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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