



WAUSAU WATER WORKS

FOR YOU!

Volume 13, No. 1

Celebrating 125 Years of Excellence

Spring 2010

Annual Hydrant Flushing Will Begin on May 2

Water utility employees will begin flushing fire hydrants on Monday night, May 3, 2010, as part of an annual maintenance program.

Flushing accomplishes two tasks; first, it cleans the mains of mineral buildup, and secondly, it ensures that all hydrants are in good operating order.



The majority of the flushing is performed during the evening hours from 9:00 p.m. until about 4:00 a.m., during which time approximately 1600 hydrants will be flushed. This process takes three weeks to complete. **A complete schedule is printed on page 3 of this newsletter.** Flushing in the Riverview, Highway U, Industrial Park, and the high pressure zone around 28th Avenue reservoir will take place during the day, the week of May 17-21.

Residents are urged to avoid water use when the flushing occurs near their neighborhood, especially for laundry purposes, as it may stain clothing. Water softeners should also be bypassed during this time. Some homeowners may experience very low pressure during the flushing process. As flushing occurs in your neighborhood, businesses and homes may experience dirty water for a short period of time.

Residents are also cautioned about driving in the area where the flushing is occurring. Water from hydrants is under extreme pressure, with approximately 1,000 gallons per minute being discharged. Although our employees use caution, damage to your vehicle can result if you drive through an area where hydrants are being flushed and slippery roads may exist depending on nighttime temperatures.

Commission Authorizes Request To PSC for Simplified Rate Case

The Wausau Water Works Commission at its April 6, 2010 meeting authorized a request to submit an application to the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin for a Simplified Rate Case in the amount of 3%. More information on this rate increase request and impact on customer's bills is shown on page 2 of this newsletter. This increase is needed to help cover the ever increasing costs of utilities, chemicals and other operating expenses. This increase is the first in four years and will be put into place July 1, 2010. The average family of four should see an increase of less than a \$2.00 per quarter on their water bill.

Businesses to Receive Letters for Cross Connection Inspections

All non-residential properties in the City of Wausau will be receiving letters advising of the need for Cross Connection Inspections.

The Department of Natural Resources is requiring water utilities to ensure that non-residential properties be surveyed on a two year schedule. Property owners will need to hire a licensed plumber or certified cross connection inspector to ensure that no contamination points exist at the property, and that required back flow preventers and/or pressure reducing valves are in place. Properties that are surveyed and considered as low hazard may be allowed to conduct future inspections on a reduced schedule. Properties that are found to have violations will be required to make corrections to their plumbing and be re-inspected.

Questions regarding these requirements may be referred to Bob Thompson, Assistant Water Superintendent, at 715-261-7262 or Mike Krohn, Plumbing Inspector, at 715-261-6785.

Welcome Aboard

Roy Kressman was hired in January to replace Lonnie Lewis, who retired in December. Roy transferred from the Department of Public Works where he worked as a mechanic since he was hired in 2005, and is currently serving as a Wastewater Treatment Plant Mechanic.

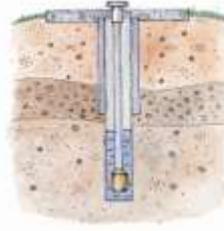
In Memoriam

Wausau Water Works would like to extend our deepest condolences to the family of Allen Lierman, who passed away on April 7, 2010. Al retired from his position as Meter Technician in April, 2000 after 34 years of service.

Well Permits & Abandonment

Residents are reminded that State and Municipal codes require owners of properties in the City with a private well to obtain a permit through Wausau Water Works. Unused or non-complying wells must be properly abandoned.

Homeowners are cautioned never to fill an unused well. Removing unapproved materials can be very expensive. This work must be done by a well driller or licensed pump installer, as they understand what needs to be done.



To maintain a well for watering or other outdoor uses, the well must be tested to ensure that it is bacteriologically safe, and a permit obtained. Permits cost \$60.00 for a five year period and can be assessed on your water bill at \$3.00 per quarter.

For more information on obtaining a permit or information on proper well abandonment, please contact Dave Erickson at 715-261-6536.



Online Appointment Scheduling Available

In an effort to continually provide better services for our customers, you can now use our website to perform a variety of online appointment requests. Log onto our website at: www.ci.wausau.wi.us/Departments/WausauWaterWorks.aspx to schedule final readings or appointments for meter exchanges. You'll find a link under Service Scheduling to perform these functions. We will confirm all service requests during our normal working hours.

You may also pay your water and sewer bill with a credit or debit card through the link that takes you to Official Payments (please note that a convenience fee is charged by Official Payments for this service). You can also view copies of our newsletters, minutes and agendas for the Wausau Water Works Commission or find other information relating to the City of Wausau. So, log on today!

NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE

WATER CUSTOMERS OF WAUSAU WATER WORKS

This is to give you notice that Wausau Water Works will file an application on April 30, 2010 with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC), for authority to increase water rates. Rates for general service will increase 3 percent. The increase is necessary to reduce the existing deficiency in present rates. The request is being made under Wis. Stat. 196.193. Rate increases granted under this statute do not require a public hearing. The effect of the increase for some selected customers is shown below. Public Fire Protection and Wholesale rates (if applicable) will also increase 3 percent.

Customer Classification	Meter Size	Cubic Feet	Existing Quarterly Rate	Revised Quarterly Rate
Average Residential	5/8"	1,500	\$39.60	\$40.80
Large Residential	3/4"	2,400	\$54.36	\$56.01
Commercial	1"	19,500	\$323.55	\$332.67
Public Authority	1-1/2"	30,000	\$498.00	\$511.86
Industrial	2"	60,000	\$966.00	\$992.49

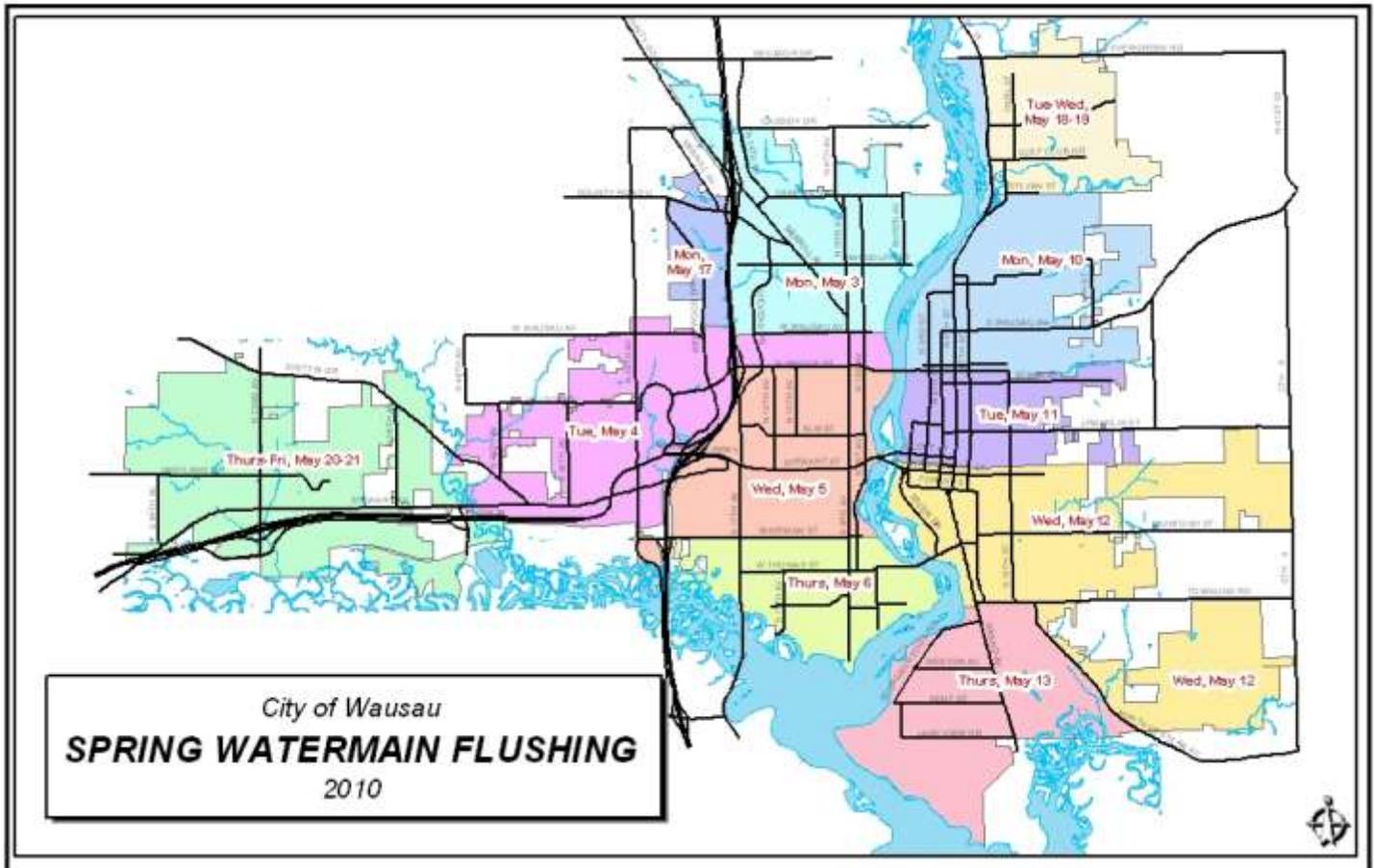
This rate increase will go into effect on July 1, 2010

If you have any questions about this rate increase request, call Wausau Water Works at 715-261-6530.

SPRING WATERMAIN FLUSHING SCHEDULE

Utility crews will flush watermains through the operation of hydrants from 9 p.m. until about 4 a.m. (except as noted below). You may want to draw a supply of water prior to your area being flushed. Please be aware adjacent neighborhoods to the area being flushed may experience dirty water for short periods of time.

Avoid water use during the scheduled flush, for laundry purposes especially, and the use of bleach in your laundry should also be avoided as it may stain your clothing. It is also suggested that you bypass water softeners during this time. Please also be aware that some homeowners may experience very low pressure during the flushing process.



FLUSHING SCHEDULE

WEST SIDE

Monday night, May 3 - West Wausau Avenue north to City limits.
Tuesday night, May 4 - Wausau Avenue south to Bridge Street and Pinecrest area to Stettin Drive, west to 48th Avenue and north to Hilltop Avenue.
Wednesday night, May 5 - Oak Street south to Sherman Street.
Thursday night, May 6 - Rosecrans Street south to City limits.

EAST SIDE

Monday night, May 10 - Bridge Street north to Sylvan Street; 6th Street to City Limits (Evergreen Road), Riverview Court and Riverview Drive
Tuesday night, May 11 - Bridge Street south to Jefferson Street
Wednesday night, May 12 - Jefferson Street south to Town Line Road and Northwestern Avenue
Thursday night, May 13 - Town Line Road south to City limits.

OTHER AREAS

(Flushing performed during the day from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

Monday, May 17 - High Pressure Zone by 28th Avenue Reservoir, Highway U.
Tuesday and Wednesday, May 18-19 - Riverview Area
Thursday and Friday, May 20-21 - 56th Avenue west to City limits

Wausau Water Works Celebrates 125th Anniversary

2010 commemorates the 125th Anniversary of Wausau Water Works, and staff is busy making plans to recognize the occasion.

We've come a long way since the utility was organized back in 1885. Today, we have nearly 250 miles of water and sewer mains, over 16,000 meters in service and 1602 fire hydrants. We have 2 elevated water towers, 3 reservoirs, 6 wells, and 8 booster stations to help pump the water in our hilly terrain. Our water treatment plant is capable of pumping 12 million gallons of water per day while our wastewater treatment plant is capable of treating 8 million gallons per day. Sludge from the wastewater plant is recycled onto local, DNR approved,

farm acreage as "*Black Gold*", a nutrient rich product. There are 26 lift stations that help transport sewage to the wastewater treatment plant. Our billing department issues bills to over 5,000 customers each month, and meters can now be read in about 4 hours each month by using drive-by radio technology.

Besides the City of Wausau, we also sell water under a wholesale agreement to the Village of Brokaw and treat sewage from the City of Schofield and a portion of the Town of Stettin.

Amazing, Awesome Water Facts

- The only water we will ever have is what we now have.
- Showers use 9 gallons of water per minutes.
- A bath requires 30 to 50 gallons.

- When ground water is contaminated, it may remain that way for several thousand years.
- A hot water faucet that leaks 60 drops per minute can waste 192 gallons of water and 48 kw hours of electricity per month.
- Human blood is 83% water; human bones are 25% water.
- Running the tap waiting for water to get hot or cold can waste 5 gallons per minute.
- Saltwater is 97% of water on earth. Three percent is fresh-water. Most of the freshwater stored on the earth is frozen in glaciers.
- Watermelons are 93% water.
- "Water" was the first word that Helen Keller learned. "Water" was the last word spoken by President Ulysses S. Grant.

Source: www.waterbank.com/Newsletters/nws29.html