

Use Dollars Wisely



Everyone is feeling the pain of the current recession in some way. For the second year in a row, the number of new connections for water and wastewater has decreased. As a revenue-neutral authority, our capital improvement budget relies on new connections to fund new projects. So, just as you have likely weeded out some of your “nice-to-have but not necessary now” budget items, so have we.

Despite the downturn in growth, Loudoun Water maintains a strong financial position, with good cash flow and a trim operating budget. In response to the slowed growth in our service area, we have cut or deferred projects that are either (1) not already obligated through contracts; (2) can be pushed out a year or two with no impact to you; and/or (3) do not provide immediate value. In addition, we presented the leanest budget possible to our Board for approval this past December. Part of the trimmings included removing the Cost of Living Adjustment that used to be applied to all employees’ wages. We have also cut non-essential travel, and the company’s annual holiday party to name a few. Cuts on non-essential items will enable us to keep the critical operations of the system running, with no effect on our ability to deliver clean, high quality water to you. So you’ll still see progress moving forward on the construction of new storage tanks in the Dulles South area. You will still see progress on our plans to replace some of the older pipes in the system, and to upsize some critical pipes that enable us to move water more efficiently throughout the system. And, you will also see us begin work on a new project that will secure Eastern Loudoun’s future water supply (see next page).

If you are looking for a way to stretch your dollars more in 2009, why not take a closer look at how you use water? Are you being as wise with it as you can? Our average customer uses nearly 300 gallons per day each summer just to water their lawn. Over a three-month period, that’s 27,000 gallons and about \$50. Why not let your lawn go this summer and put that \$50 away for something more critical? For more than 100 ways to trim your water use and save a buck, check out www.loudounwater.org.

Prevent Frozen Pipes

Here are some simple tips for the winter season. Visit our website, www.loudounwater.org, for more information.

- Shut off and drain the pipes leading to your outside faucets. Using the valves located inside your home, make sure no water is left to freeze, expand and cause a leak in these lines.
- Open the cabinets beneath any place with a water supply, such as the kitchen and bathroom sinks. This will allow warm air to circulate. (Remove any toxic substances first if there are small children in the home.)
- Identify whether the problem is throughout the whole house or in one area. When checking for issues, check the cold water faucet versus the hot water faucet.

Never try to thaw a pipe with an open flame. You can use a hair dryer on low or a portable heater, but avoid using electrical appliances if there is standing water. Warm water on your stove to soak towels, then wrap the towels around the frozen pipes.

WATER FUN FACT #4

Running hot water down your drain with grease only makes the grease stop further down your pipes.

NEWS Leak

Potomac To Supply Future Water Needs

It's been decided. After lengthy study, our Board of Directors has unanimously agreed to move forward with a plan that puts our future water supply in our own hands. The "Potomac River Water Supply and Raw Water Storage Plan" secures the water needs for our customers for the next 30 years, and includes the formation of a key partnership with Luck Stone.

The Plan entails putting an intake in the Potomac River on property near Leesburg that Loudoun Water acquired in 1993, and pumping it to several of Luck Stone's retired quarries for storage, and to a new treatment plant to be constructed near the Dulles Toll Road. The first quarry to become available will provide up to one billion gallons of storage. Ultimately, over many years, several of Luck's quarries will provide the region with 8 billion gallons of raw water storage.

Planned growth in Loudoun County requires an estimated total of 90 million gallons per day (mgd) by 2035. Loudoun Water currently has the ability to provide 57 mgd through contractual agreements with Fairfax



Water (50 mgd) and the City of Fairfax (7 mgd). The Potomac River Plan is the most cost effective and environmentally responsible way to go.

The partnership with Luck Stone is a win-win-win for Loudoun Water, Luck Stone, and the region. It offers the quarries a second, very worthwhile life as water storage reservoirs; it ensures the Potomac is used wisely; and provides the region with terrific long-term storage.

The Plan will be implemented in two phases and take seven years to complete. In the interim, up to seven additional mgd of water may be purchased from Fairfax Water if needed, and we will continue to encourage wise water use.

KEEPING DRAINS DRUG-FREE AND FAT-FREE



You've heard the old saying, "We are what we eat." Well, the same is true for your water supply. Local waters have minute amounts of many things we ingest. That's why it's so important to keep medicine, chemicals and fats, oils and grease out of our drains and toilets.

Place expired medications in a closed container with used coffee grounds or kitty litter and throw it in the trash.

Let grease harden, then scrape it into a used container or bag and place it in the trash as well. Recycling containers is great, but scrape out the last of the mayonnaise into the trash rather than washing the container out in the sink.

Soak up leftover latex paint with newspaper and let that little bit of paint dry in the can. Then take the paint-covered newspaper and paint can to the curb on trash day.

Why the trash can and not the drain? Backups can be costly and often not covered under a typical insurance policy. Removing items like fats, oils and grease from our collection systems is also costly. Prevention can help our facilities last longer. Remember, the best drinking water starts with the best source water. Learn more at www.loudounwater.org