ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting for the members of Spanaway Water Company is on
Monday, November 18th, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
Company office, 18413 “B” St. E.

The property owners served by Spanaway Water Company are members of the non-profit mutual company. At the Company’s annual meeting, as an owner member, you are invited to attend and vote at the meeting. At the meeting information about operations, construction plans, conservation efforts, and the accountant’s report on the Company’s financial status will be presented. The Company will also review and request approval of the 2020-25 Water Use Efficiency Goal and seek input or comments from you on the Company’s 2020 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan update. You are encouraged to ask questions, discuss Company matters, and vote to elect two members to the Board of Directors.

This year’s election will be for two Board positions, one for the five-year term 2019-2024, and one for the balance of the 2015-20 term left vacant by the passing of long time Board member Don O’Dell. The Board of Director’s nominating committee has nominated Sandy Williamson for the full five-year term and Taylor Griess for the partial term ending in 2020. Sandy has served on the Board since 2014 and is retired from a career with the USGS. Taylor Griess has served as interim Board member since July after Don O’Dell’s passing. Taylor comes to the Board with a water (Parkland Light and Water) and electrical background currently with Elmhurst Mutual Power and Light. With a dual utility background Taylor brings an “on the ground” perspective to the Board.

Nominations for both Board positions will also be taken from the floor. A background in public water systems, business, land development, or construction is helpful though not required for the position. Consider serving our shared community by serving on the Board of Directors.

To encourage member participation, and in an effort to ensure the presence of a quorum, three $50.00 door prizes will be awarded to Company members (property owners) at the end of the meeting. The door prizes are intended to thank members for their attendance. Come, listen, learn, participate, and be an active member of your water company. If you have ever wondered what it takes to make clean, safe water come from your faucet, this is your chance. Learn about Spanaway Water and possibly leave with a $50.00 door prize!

Monday November 18th, 7:30 p.m., 18413 B ST. E—Come Participate!

2019 Record Water Use and Leak Detection / Repair Efforts

Fiscal year 2019 saw the highest water production at 1,186,802,654 gallons or an average daily use of 3,251,514 gallons. With this year’s warm and cool weather mixed with intermittent rain we avoided last summer’s wildfire smoke and saw an up and down season for water use. May and June saw record use, July’s use sawed up and down and August jumped back closer to record levels. While peak day use per home dropped to 453 gallons per day (GPD), the lowest ever, this is still over 160% of normal average water use of 282 GPD.

Overall, the record water production was an indication of system growth and our unaccounted for water—system leaks. We knew going into the year that system leakage was climbing and we had leak detection scheduled for early 2019. Overall for 2019 our water loss was 19.50%, much higher than we want to see. Since this spring we have repaired 186 leaks, mostly in old “thin walled” service lines (142) between the water main and meter. With the repair of all these leaks we anticipate that 2020 will see a much lower water loss.

One of the surprising things in repairing the service line leaks were the number of customers who noted that, “yes”, their water pressure seemed to have been declining for several months or longer. Should you notice that at your home, let us know. We will check your pressure compared to homes around you. If your pressure is noticeably lower and your meter is not turning, we may have a leak in the service line to your meter. Most of these leaks do not show up on the surface and are often under the roadway. The only way we find out about these leaks are from customer calls or expensive leak detection services. Regardless if you see running water or unusual puddles let us know we’ll check them out—Be a Leak Fighter!
Water Use Efficiency Plan 2020-2025 Goal Setting

In 2007, the Washington’s Department of Health regulations started requiring each “Group A” water system to adopt a “water use efficiency goal” for six-year periods. The specific goal the company adopted in 2007 was: “Maintain an ongoing minimum reduction in the rolling six-year pumped average day demand per unit (PADD/Unit) of at least 0.5% per unit per year.” This goal was “readopted” in 2013 but the starting point was lowered dramatically. So over the past 12 years, how have you and the Company done?

In 2007, the six-year average pumped use per was 330.2 gallons. With a 0.5%/yr. reduction per year, our 2013 goal was to lower that average from 330 to no more than 320 gallons. Due to some very wet years during that six-year period and Company leak detection efforts, the actual reduction was from 330 to 275 gallons—nearly a 17% reduction. When establishing the 2013 goal we considered both how much reduction we had already seen and the prior period’s wet weather. On that basis, we lowered the goal period’s starting point from 320 to 288 gallons with the 2019 goal of 279 gallons. This year that six-year rolling average was actually 271 gallons. We met our goal for the 2014-19 period. That is great, but the reductions were much smaller through the period and we’ve had a couple of very dry years.

We are now approaching our third six-year planning period. We are recommending simply continuing our original goal of “Maintain an ongoing minimum reduction in the rolling six-year pumped average day demand per unit (PADD/Unit) of at least 0.5% per unit per year.” With this goal we are seeking, as a minimum, to lower and maintain that six-year rolling average at no more than 271 gallons per unit. A perspective on historic and future goal use is shown above. You might be wondering what happens if we are not meeting our goals? We will have to adopt measures to reach those goals, possibly through enforceable watering restrictions, higher water rates, an even tighter leak detection schedule, removal of leak repair incentives, and possibly even fines for watering when it is raining—measures we do not want to pursue! Your thoughts and comments would be appreciated.

2020 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update

Spanaway Water Company’s “FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan” was first developed in 2010 in coordination with the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management. These plans are developed for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and are required for entities to access federal funding post federally declared disasters. Our plan, and the plans of more than fifty other public service providers, are intended to identify hazards that may create risks to our abilities to provide essential public services and measures that will potentially mitigate those risks. These plans must be updated every five years and Spanaway Water is currently updating our 2015 plan. Here is the link to the full Mitigation Section from our 2015 plan:


A quick word of caution if you review the hazard mitigation strategy, the format for the document was rigidly prescribed by FEMA and each section had to specifically follow that exact format. While this may make public review more difficult it allows FEMA to complete a certification checklist before plan approval.

Here is a picture of the installation of an altitude valve/vault to Tank #2 to serve multiple functions. Primarily, the valve allows full use of Well #9 after the tank has filled but also secures water in the tank if a larger earthquake hits. The valve will also isolate the tank if a tank intrusion is sensed.
HOW PREPARED IS YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EMERGENCY?

Most of us try not to think about a serious emergency, but living in western Washington, the likelihood of a major earthquake is not just a possibility but a certainty. The question is when!

PREVENTING THIRST AFTER A DISASTER

Water is essential for survival. Ground trembling and shaking caused by earthquakes can crack or break the lines that bring fresh water to your house. You may have to rely on the water you have stored for three or more days. Here are some tips and a minimum when you think of an emergency water supply for your family:

- Three gallons per person in your household is the minimum amount required to take care of drinking, cooking, and hygiene needs for the first 72 hours of a disaster.
- Store water in plastic containers with tight fitting screw-cap lids, such as two-liter soda pop bottles or food-grade plastic jugs or five gallon “carboys”.
- For extra safety, before filling, thoroughly rinse the container with a weak solution of liquid chlorine bleach (8-10 drops in two cups water). Empty this solution out and fill the container right to the top with fresh water.
- Seal the container tightly and label it “drinking water” with the date it was filled or refilled.
- Store it in a cool, dark place and one that you believe you can access after an earthquake.
- You can improve the taste of stored water by putting oxygen back into it by pouring the water back and forth between two clean containers several times.
- It is recommended that water be rotated every six months, that’s why you date it!

Here is a brief list of other major items to include in your family emergency kit:
- Food, non-perishable, easy to prepare, minimal water needed
- Flashlight & extra batteries
- Battery operated or hand crank radio
- Family First Aid kit including any prescription medications and baby supplies as may be needed
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Emergency blanket, towelettes, garbage bags, plastic ties, work gloves
- Dust mask, plastic sheeting, & duct tape
- Wrench to turn off utilities—water and gas
- Copies of critical personal documents (contact numbers, birth certificates, insurance policies, passports, deed or lease to your home, medical list and pertinent medical information, proof of address)
- Local maps
- Extra cash
- Misc. Items: Can opener, whistle, matches, extra set of car and house keys, sturdy shoes
- Cell phone with charger
- If available a generator, but fuel may not be available

Finally, package all items in sturdy storage boxes and store in a secure location that will allow access even in a partial collapse of your home. For more information check out the following web sites:

CDC: https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/hemophilia/documents/familyemergencykitchecklist.pdf
Red Cross: https://www.redcross.org/get-help/how-to-prepare-for-emergencies/survival-kit-supplies.html
FEMA & DHS: https://www.ready.gov/kit

2020 FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (cont.)

Since this plan is intended to provide greater reliability of your water supply, we would like you to comment on not only the currently identified mitigation measures but any other items you feel would be important for us to consider. The 2020 updated plan will have expanded man-made hazards to include, for example, cyber security and other human threats. Due to the sensitive nature of this type of threat, existing and planned mitigation measures are either not included or only partially addressed herein.

Here is a list of the hazards identified as risks to your water system, some added for 2020:

Natural: Earthquake Volcanic Hazard Severe Weather Flooding
Drought Wildland/Urban Interface Fire Climate Change*

Man-Made: Energy Emergency* Epidemic* Pipelines* Terrorism
Transportation Accidents* Civil Disturbance* Hazardous Material Spills*

*Items specifically identified to be included in the 2020 Update

If you have comments or recommendations please feel free to contact, Jeff Johnson, at injohnson@spanaway-water.org or (253) 531-9024. The Hazard Mitigation Plan Update will also be reviewed and discussed at the Company’s Annual Meeting, Monday November 18th, 7:30 P.M. at the Company Office, 18413 B St E, Spanaway, WA 98387

HOW PREPARED IS YOUR FAMILY FOR AN EMERGENCY??
PREVENTING THE “FREEZE”
And Major Headaches!

What to do to help avoid winter plumbing problems:

- Remove all hoses from hose bibs and where possible turn off and drain those outside hose bibs.
- Install foam hose bibs covers, available at hardware stores.
- For hose bib piping in uninsulated garage walls, turn off the feed valve in the insulated part of the garage and open the hose faucet to drain the water from the plumbing in the uninsulated wall.
- Drain landscape irrigation systems.
- Set thermostats at a minimum of 55 degrees to help prevent frozen pipes if you are leaving for a winter trip.
- Insulate water pipes in your home’s crawl space to help prevent freezing. This also helps hot water pipes, allowing hot water to reach your sink and tub more quickly, saving both water and energy.
- During cold spells open cabinet doors where plumbing is in outside walls.
- When it is consistently well below freezing during the day, especially if the power is out, allow a slow trickle or drip of water to run through an indoor faucet. This should be done only when other options are not possible.
- Finally, do not use your hose to remove frost or snow off your walks and driveways. Even hot water will freeze and make a great skating rink!!

The Employees and Board of Directors
We Wish You and Your Family the Very Best
This Holiday Season & Throughout the Year!

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Annual Meeting