



# SPANAWAY WATER NEWS

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF SPANAWAY WATER COMPANY - Fall/Winter 2022

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting for the members of  
Spanaway Water Company is scheduled for  
**Monday, November 21, 2022 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 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 2022 Bylaws update. You are encouraged to ask questions, discuss Company matters, and vote to elect members to the Board of Directors.

This year's elections will have multiple Board positions. As regular elections were not able to be held in 2020 or 2021 we have two elections to hold. We also had a board member resign in April of this year. Mr. Sandy Williamson resigned his position. Per SWC bylaws the board appointed Mr. Jens Vincent to the vacated board position. Mr. Vincent will serve on the board until the next regular election slated, which will be at this meeting. He will appear on the ballot running for the remainder of the vacated term that expires November of 2024. With the 2020 meeting cancellation, two board members, Mr. Dave Haukeli and Mr. Taylor Griess, who would have stood for election to five-year terms continued to serve on the board for another two years and stand for election with other nominees to a special reduced three-year term at this year's annual meeting. These position terms will then expire in 2025. With the 2021 meeting cancellation, the two board members, Mr. Adrian Chavez and Mr. Tip Thibodeaux, who would have stood for election to five-year terms will continue to serve on the board for another year and stand for election with other nominees to special reduced four-year terms at this year's annual meeting. These position terms will then expire in 2026.

Nominations for Board positions will also be taken from the floor. A background in public utility 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 show our appreciation for the support, 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 be an active member of your water company and possibly leave with a \$50.00 door prize!

***Monday November 21, 2022, 7:30 p.m., 18413 B ST. E—Come Participate!***



# Bylaw Update

At this year's annual meeting we will be asking our membership to vote on changes to the Company's bylaws. Our bylaws have not been updated since 2007. Many changes have happened in the past 15 years not only here at Spanaway Water but also in the community we serve. Your Board of Directors along with senior staff at the water company, have reviewed the current bylaws in an effort to update them to current practices and policies.

These proposed changes, as well as the current bylaws, are published on our website [www.spanaway-water.org](http://www.spanaway-water.org). We ask that our membership (property owners) review these proposed changes as we will be asking members to approve these changes at the November annual meeting. If you are unable to view the proposed changes online, please contact our office at 253-531-9024 and we can provide you a copy via mail.

We believe the proposed revisions to the bylaws are important. If approved they will serve membership well into the future. Please join us on November 21, 2022 at 7:30pm and vote.

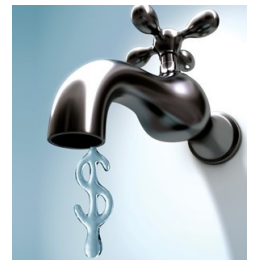


## 2023 WATER RATES

After completing the annual review of operations, maintenance, improvements to water treatment processes, capital improvement projects, and needed telemetry upgrades, 2023 will see a 7% increase in water rates. The average two month bill is anticipated to increase from \$74.30 to \$77.08 or \$1.39 per month.

For 2023 the water rates will increase as follows:

	2022:	2023:
<b>Base Rate:</b>	\$ 21.00	\$ 22.47
<b>EPA Treatment Charge:</b>	\$ 7.00	\$ 7.49
<b>Capital Projects Fee:</b>	\$ 24.00	\$ 25.68
<b>Water Use Charges:</b> (Usage: 1 CCF = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons)		
0 — 500 cubic feet	\$ 1.10	\$ 1.18
501 — 1,500 cubic feet	\$ 1.20	\$ 1.28
1,501 — 2,500 cubic feet	\$ 1.60	\$ 1.71
2,501 — 4,000 cubic feet	\$ 2.25	\$ 2.41
4,001 — 7,500 cubic feet	\$ 2.95	\$ 3.16
7,501+ cubic feet	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.75



The following shows 2022 and 2023 bi-monthly water rates at different usage levels based on typical bi-monthly water use by general season:

	2022:	2023:
Winter: 1,500 cubic feet (11,220 gallons)	\$ 69.50	\$ 74.34
Summer: 3,500 cubic feet (26,180 gallons)	\$ 108.00	\$ 115.54
High Usage: 7,500 cubic feet (56,100 gallons)	\$ 222.50	\$ 238.19

For homes on the Spanaway Water System, the 2022 annual average water use per bill cycle for the entire year was 1,660 cubic feet (equals 207 gallons per day), slightly above the winter volume in the table above.

## *Main Flushing Reminder*

The size of water mains is chiefly determined by fire hydrant flow requirements rather than routine domestic water needs. At times other than during the summer water demands, these larger than normally necessary sized mains can lead to the accumulation of minerals on the interior of the mains. To improve water quality, starting with the fall rains and continuing until the following summer's weather, we do routine water main flushing on Tuesdays. During this process we move large quantities of water through the dead-end or low flow mains to both scour the pipe's interior and bring fresh water into the area. This can stir up the water. When this happens, you may see a brownish yellow tint to the water. That tint is caused by manganese, a naturally occurring mineral, which even at 0.05 milligrams per liter can discolor the water and is considered an aesthetic "secondary" contaminant. Because the water may be discolored we ask that you consider this before washing clothing, especially whites on Tuesdays. **Thanks for your consideration!**



## *Capital Improvements Projects 2022-2023*

**Main Replacement Program:** The ongoing Renewal and Replacement (R&R) is our infrastructure replacement program. The focus is on the sixty miles of aging asbestos cement (A/C) water mains. These projects effectively rebuild the water system, section by section, and include water mains, service lines, valves, fittings and fire hydrants. Currently these projects are focused on areas with on-going leak issues as we work our way through all of the existing A/C mains over the next thirty plus years. When possible R&R projects are coordinated with County road or sewer projects. Last year the intersection of Waller and Military road was rebuilt and 12" main installed south of Military Road in coordination with the County sewer and the new Bethel School District elementary school projects. 2022's R&R #5 project replaced the system in the area west of Pacific Avenue from 167<sup>th</sup> Street South to 169<sup>th</sup> Street South.

**Redundant Booster Station (BPS) in Clarewood:** We have finished construction of a secondary Booster Pump Station (BPS). SWC had identified a need for a redundant BPS to supply the 610 Pressure Zone. This facility provides a solution for the future upper zone's water supply and storage challenges. The booster station package was installed within the existing Clarewood facility located at 196th Street East. This facility previously housed a packaged booster pump system that was relocated to Tank 3 in 1997. The new BPS was sized to handle maximum day demands (MDD) plus fire flow to the 610 Pressure Zone service area. The new booster system mimics the operation of the existing booster station to allow alternate cycling of the stations which should extend pump life and provide redundancy for maintenance. We thank the Clarewood Home Owners Association for being very supportive of this project.

**Well 11:** Our engineers have started the process for Pierce County and Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department site approvals for our proposed Well 11 at our office/shop property. We will be following their recommendations regarding test well drilling. The decision to proceed with the development of a permanent well will be based upon the test well production levels.

**Wholesale Water from Lakewood Water District (LWD):** Due to the ongoing challenges of obtaining additional water rights from the Department of Ecology, we have entered into an agreement to purchase two million gallons per day of wholesale water from the Lakewood Water District. We will be connecting to Lakewood's existing wholesale water transmission main that currently provides water to Summit Water & Supply, Firgrove Mutual Water and Washington Water Services (previously Rainier View Water). This connection is the result of the growth within our service area and the challenges to obtain additional water rights from the Department of Ecology.

**Meter Replacement Program:** We will be entering our fourth year of replacing mechanical meters with electronic meters. The new meters are also 'radio read' and provide a level of reliability and low flow registration not possible with mechanical meters. It is planned for this replacement project to continue over the next three years before completely in place.

**Telemetry System upgrades:** We will be entering our second year of a complete upgrade of our SCADA system. SCADA, short for Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition, is the control system that gives our staff the ability to control and monitor our booster stations, wells, and storage tank operations either on-site or from our office facility.

**Capital Projects:** For fiscal year 2023 the Company plans to invest \$2.2 million back into the water system. This work has been done in the past without loans and the additional costs of loan interest payments. The Company continues to work hard to fully fund infrastructure replacement without adding the costs of loans. .



***Winter Freezes are Coming -  
Protect your water system***

Frozen pipes can be a nightmare:

- 1) Remove all hoses from hose bibs and where possible turn off and drain the water to those outside hose bibs.
- 2) Install foam hose bibs covers, available at hardware stores.
- 3) For hose bib piping in uninsulated walls, turn off the feed valve in the insulated part of the garage wall and open the hose faucet to drain the water from the plumbing in the uninsulated wall.
- 4) Drain landscape irrigation systems.
- 5) Keep thermostats at a minimum of 55 degrees to help prevent frozen pipes.
- 6) Insulate water pipes in your home's crawl space. This also helps get hot water to reach your sink and tub more quickly, saving both water and energy.
- 7) Open cabinet doors where plumbing is in outside walls during cold spells.
- 8) When well below freezing throughout 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.



**Protect your home & your peace of mind by following these simple measures!**

***Spanaway Water Wishes You the Very Best This  
Holiday Season & Throughout the Year!  
Be Safe & Stay Healthy!***



***2022 Annual Meeting Notice***



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