



SPANAWAY WATER NEWS

A NEWSLETTER TO THE CUSTOMERS OF SPANAWAY WATER COMPANY - Fall/Winter 2023

ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

**The annual meeting for the members of
Spanaway Water Company is scheduled for
Monday, November 20, 2023 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. You are encouraged to ask questions, discuss Company matters, and vote to elect members to the Board of Directors.

This year's election will be for one Board position. The position is for a five year term, November 2023-2028. The Board of Director's nomination committee has nominated Steve Bright for the five year term. Steve, who is the current Vice President, has served on the Board since 2008 and is a retired teacher from the Puyallup School District.

Nominations for Board position 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 20, 2023, 7:30 p.m., 18413 B ST. E—Come Participate!



In-House Leak Detection



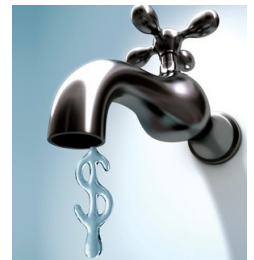
Spanaway Water has historically hired leak detection services from an outside company every three years. We have recently purchased our own locating equipment which included staff training. We are identifying and repairing more leaks, saving money, and have less unaccounted for water. Since implementing the on-going in-house leak detection program we have found that the equipment has already paid for itself. Since implementation in May we have identified and repaired 90 leaks representing an estimated 803 gpm which is over 400 million gallons per year. This has proven to be a very practical and successful endeavor suggested and implemented by the field crew. Leak detection and repairs equals cost savings to our utility and members as well.

2024 WATER RATES

After completing the annual review of operations, maintenance, improvements to water treatment processes, capital improvement projects 2024 will see a 7% increase in water rates. The average two month bill is anticipated to increase from \$80.03 to \$86.54 or \$3.25 per month.

For 2024 the water rates will increase as follows:

	2023:	2024:
Base Rate:	\$ 22.47	\$ 24.04
EPA Treatment Charge:	\$ 7.49	\$ 8.01
Capital Projects Fee:	\$ 25.68	\$ 27.48
Water Use Charges: (Usage: 1 CCF = 100 cubic feet = 748 gallons)		
0 — 500 cubic feet	\$ 1.18	\$ 1.26
501 — 1,500 cubic feet	\$ 1.28	\$ 1.37
1,501 — 2,500 cubic feet	\$ 1.71	\$ 1.83
2,501 — 4,000 cubic feet	\$ 2.41	\$ 2.58
4,001 — 7,500 cubic feet	\$ 3.16	\$ 3.38
7,501+ cubic feet	\$ 3.78	\$ 4.01



The following shows 2023 and 2024 bi-monthly water rates at different usage levels based on typical bi-monthly water use by general season:

	2023:	2024:
Winter: 1,500 cubic feet (11,220 gallons)	\$ 74.34	\$ 79.53
Summer: 3,500 cubic feet (26,180 gallons)	\$ 115.54	\$ 123.63
High Usage: 7,500 cubic feet (56,100 gallons)	\$ 238.19	\$ 254.83

For homes on the Spanaway Water System, the 2023 annual average water use per bill cycle for the entire year was 1,883 cubic feet (equals 235 gallons per day), slightly above the winter volume in the table above.

Main Flushing Reminder

A water main's size is predominantly determined by fire flow requirements rather than residential or domestic water demands. Mains that are sized to move large volumes of water for fire flow can accumulate naturally occurring minerals on the interior of the mains during lower volume domestic flow. To improve water quality, we perform routine water main flushing on Tuesdays, typically from October through May. 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 minerals in the piping system. When this happens, you may see a brownish yellow tint to the water, caused by manganese. Manganese is considered an aesthetic "secondary" contaminant. Because the water may be discolored we suggest that you consider this before washing clothing on Tuesdays.



Capital Improvements Projects 2023-2024

Test Well 11: Test Well 11 was drilled at our office/shop property. Based upon the test well's production and input from our hydrogeologist and the well driller it became apparent that the best potential for a production well at this site was 250 to 300 gallons per minute. It was also likely to need manganese treatment. We determined that it was not worth spending the money to drill a production well and construct the well house facility for 300 gallons per minute. It was agreed to decommission the test well, the decommissioning work has been completed. As disappointing as that result was, it does demonstrate the benefits of drilling a test well.

Wholesale Water from Lakewood Water District (LWD): Due to the ongoing challenges of obtaining additional water rights from the Department of Ecology, SWC entered into an agreement to purchase up to two million gallons per day of wholesale water from the Lakewood Water District. We have connected to Lakewood's existing wholesale water transmission main that also provides water to Summit Water & Supply, Firgrove Mutual Water and Washington Water Services (previously Rainier View Water). We are currently receiving approximately 1.3 million gallons per day as we work towards easing this new supply source into the system.

Meter Replacement Program: We have completed the five year process of replacing the mechanical 'radio read' 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 was planned for this replacement project to continue over the next year but SWC crews were able to commit to and complete the project well ahead of schedule.

Telemetry System upgrades: We have completed the 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. This update was much needed and provides for improved system communications and operational control.

Proposed Capital Projects: For fiscal year 2024 the Company plans to invest \$2.6 million back into the water system. This work has been performed in the past without loans and the additional costs of loan interest payments. The Company continues to work to fully fund infrastructure replacement without adding the costs of loan interest.



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 water mains. When possible R&R projects are coordinated with County road or sewer projects. The 2024 R&R #6 project will replace approximately 4,000 lf of main in the area west of Pacific Avenue from 169th Street South to 171st Street South.



GIS Mapping

GIS (Geographic Information System) is an asset management and analysis tool that has replaced paper and CAD-based mapping systems as the new standard in most industries. GIS allows SWC to go beyond simply mapping the locations of water system features. It serves as a detailed record of assets, storing data such as the age, size, and material for each feature. Team members can immediately access authoritative, up-to-date system information whether they are in the office or out in the field, saving time and money. GIS reduces the need for paper work orders and manual data entry. The field crew can enter information into GIS as they work in the field; these updates are immediately visible to all users and make it easy to visually track progress. The data stored in GIS is used to analyze patterns and steer water system management, such as determining which areas of our water system are most prone to developing leaks and should therefore be prioritized for replacement.

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



2023 Annual Meeting Notice



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