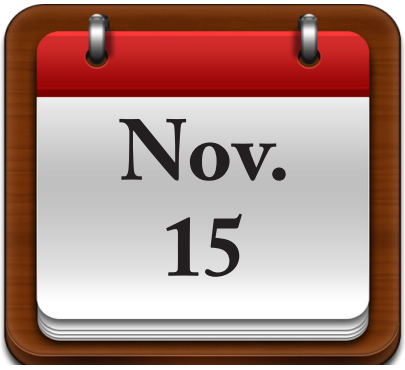
October 2015

Customer Pipeline

Emerald Coast Utilities Authority

November 15: Sewer Averaging Begins



If you are an ECUA mainland residential wastewater customer, your annual sewer charges are based on the average number of gallons of water used* in your household during the period known as "sewer averaging." Sewer averaging, or Winter Quarter Averaging as it is called in some communities, is usually conducted during the winter months when residential water consumption is at its lowest.

The ECUA's sewer averaging period will begin with each residential customer's first meter reading on or after November 15 (including ECUA sewer customers whose water service is from another water provider). The length of your sewer averaging period is 90 days.

WATER WASTED DUE TO LEAKS WILL AFFECT YOUR MONTHLY WATER AND SEWER CHARGES.

Since your actual water consumption during this period will determine your sewer charge for the next twelve months, it is important to check all indoor and outdoor plumbing fixtures for leaks. Water wasted due to leaks will affect your monthly water and sewer charges. Most leaks are easy to identify but sometimes, it takes a little creativity to track them down.

You can confirm a suspected leak in your toilet's plumbing by putting several drops of food coloring in your toilet tank. Wait 15 minutes, and if the colored water shows up in the bowl, there is a leak in the tank. Check the toilet's stopper ball for wear by flushing the toilet and rubbing the bottom of the stopper with your finger. If the rubber rubs off or crumbles, it is time to replace the stopper. Finally, **you need to lubricate, adjust or replace the flush handle if you have to jiggle it to stop the water from running after you flush.** The "stuck" handle may be causing the stopper to stay open, allowing water to flow into the bowl. Check out more ways to save on your water and sewer bill in the right-hand side bar on this page.

*Note: If you have a separate irrigation meter, the water used through the irrigation meter is not included in the sewer averaging calculation

Reduce Water Usage: Save, Save, Save

Here are some other ideas to keep in mind for reducing water usage during the sewer averaging period and throughout the year:

- Water the lawn and garden only when necessary. In order to moderate some of the extreme peaks in usage, and to maintain a balanced system pressure and reduce the amount of wear on our pumping equipment, ECUA recommends that our customers irrigate between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 3:00 a.m., which is our optimum off-peak time.
- Make sure that outside spigots are not forgotten in the "on" position.
- Cut down on the frequency of at-home car washing, or use a commercial car wash.
- Make sure you have a full load before running the washer or dishwasher.
- Don't let the water run while you brush your teeth or shave.

Hopefully, following some of these simple steps will help you save money and conserve water too! For other conservation tips, check out the "Live Green" tab on the ECUA website.

A Little Bit of History Uncovered...

About two and a half years ago, members of the ECUA's Information Technology / Geographic Information Systems (GIS) division staff found approximately 10 linen maps in some old cabinets. Six of the maps were restored as much as possible, then scanned into the ECUA's digital mapping system, and finally mounted and framed for preservation between two airtight pieces of glass. Those not mounted and framed were either far too large, or unfortunately, beyond hope of repair. One of the maps is approximately 25 feet long, depicting the entire sewer profile of a road. Unfortunately, because of its size, it could not be framed.

For all our history buffs, here are details of a few maps on display in the lobby of ECUA's main office at 9255 Sturdevant St.

Map 3602, Framed

Map 3602- Sewerage of Pensacola, FL. This map was created in 1890 by the engineering firm of Waring, Chapman, & Farquhar (New York, NY). It's a 1:600 scale map of the proposed, possible, and constructed sanitary sewer of Pensacola, Florida. This map details the force mains, force tanks, manholes, and inspections holes.

Map 3603 – Infrastructure of South East Pensacola. This map was created in 1903 by the engineering firm of Waring, Chapman, & Farquhar (New York, NY). It's a 1:200 scale map of the street grades, surface drainage, and sanitary sewer in SE Pensacola, detailing the street grades, direction of gutter flow, catch basins, new and existing sanitary sewers retained, new & existing surface water mains retained, new and existing manholes, flush tanks, and lampholes.

Map 3604 – Pocket Plan of General Drainage of Pensacola, FL. This map was created in 1906 from the engineering plans of T. Charley Hatton (Wilmington, DE). It's a 1:600 scale map of the major Sanitary Sewers of Pensacola, Florida, detailing the size and the type of gravity mains, the manholes, lampholes, and flush tanks.

A close-up of Downtown Pensacola streets.

Mark Your Calendars!

The Pensacola Beachkeepers will host an Environmental Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, October 22, from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church, 920 Via De Luna Drive, Pensacola Beach.

Special guests will include: Jim Roberts from ECUA, who will discuss FOG (fats, oils, and greases), and what you should not be pouring down your drain; Rick O'Connor from the Florida Sea Grant will talk about the Sea Turtle Lighting Ordinance, which goes into effect in 2016; and Escambia County's Tim Day will address the County's Leave No Trace Ordinance, which took effect on September 1.

This will be a fun and informal meeting, jam-packed with information from local agencies dealing with the logistical and environmental aspects of everyday life on Pensacola Beach. See you there!