



A Publication By Holley-Navarre Water System – August 2017

WE NEVER KNOW THE WORTH OF WATER 'TIL THE WELL IS DRY

Holley Navarre Water System is proud to present our members with the second edition of our periodic newsletter, *Water Drops*. This provides us with an opportunity to update our members on the current happenings within the water system and to share useful, interesting information. In this issue you will find the latest news on infrastructure upgrades currently underway, tips on water conservation, important messages from our staff, and more.

About Us

For those of you who are new to the area, Holley Navarre Water System is a not-for-profit company, owned by its members. The company was founded in 1970, with a goal of providing reliable water services to the Holley-Navarre area. Since its founding, HNWS has continually expanded and upgraded its system to meet the growing needs of the community. Today, the system serves more than 16,000 water customers and 8,600 wastewater customers. The owners of the system entrust the direction of the utility to a seven member Board of Directors. The day-to-day operation of the utility is entrusted to the over 50 paid employees of the utility, which is headed by our General Manager Paul Gardner.

Board of Directors

Bien May – President

James Calkins – Vice President

Gaius Bruce – Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Coley – Director

Brian Kelly – Director

Ricki DeSantis – Director

Troy Bossier – Director



Water Conservation: Tips on Saving Water at Home

Check out these easy ways to cut back on water usage at home!



Check all faucets, pipes and toilets for leaks. If you haven't replaced your toilet in recent years, it may be time for an upgrade. Newer toilets use significantly less water than older ones.



Take shorter showers. Turning off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving can also put a dent in your water usage. While you're at it, start keeping track of your water use. The easiest way to do this is to look at your water bill.



Fully load your dishwasher and wash full loads of clothes. Just like toilets, newer appliances such as washing machines and dishwashers use much less water than older models.



Rinse dishes in a full sink or pan of water. You can also rinse vegetables the same way, to avoid using a constant stream of running water.



How to Check for Leaks

1. Check your water meter:

Turn off all the water in your home. Shut off all faucets and make sure the dishwasher and washing machine are not running. Next, watch the meter and see if it begins to change. If it does, you likely have a fast-moving leak. If the meter doesn't change immediately, wait two hours and check it again. This may indicate a slower leak.

2. Check your toilet:

Toilets can account for up to 30 percent of your water use, so making sure they are running properly is important. To test for leaks, shut off the water valve behind the toilet, take the tank lid off and mark the water level inside the tank. Don't let anyone use this restroom for several hours. If the water level has dropped, either the flapper is leaking or there is a seal leak between the tank and the bowl.

3. Keep an eye out:

Make a practice of regularly checking the back of cabinets and under basins for any signs of mold or foul smells that might indicate a leak. Also check the flooring around toilets, sinks and other appliances for moisture or warping.

4. Check exterior usage:

Leaks don't just happen inside the home, they can occur outside as well. Check your outside spigots regularly for leaks or drips. Consider having a professional plumber make an annual inspection to check for leaks or potential problems.

FUN FACT: The water from your tap could contain molecules that dinosaurs drank!





Sewer System Reminder

The Florida panhandle's weather can change in the blink of an eye, but we all know heavy rains can be a common occurrence. Standing storm water can be a problem, so the staff at HNWS wanted to take this opportunity to educate members on the importance of using our sewer system for its intended purpose.

You may have seen our staff in the field repairing the 4" green pipes coming out of the ground on vacant lots. These pipes are sewer service laterals which have either been accidentally broken off at ground level or cut by nearby home owners in an attempt to drain their standing storm water. We've also discovered that homeowners sometimes remove their "clean out" caps in order to drain the excess storm water from their yards. The introduction of storm water into our sanitary sewer system is not only illegal, but could cause backups of raw sewage into not only your home, but into your neighbors' homes as well. Although these scenarios may seem like harmless solutions to ridding your property of storm water they can have serious consequences.

In order to help keep our costs as low as possible, we ask that all members be on the lookout for any broken sewer pipes or anyone illegally dumping storm water into the sewer system. Treating this water is not only expensive, it shortens the life span of our equipment. Please report any instances of illegal storm water dumping to our business office or to any field personnel. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

HNWS Helps Santa Rosa County Improve Emergency Service Communication

The safety of our community is obviously very important to the water system. In fact, HNWS has a history of assisting Santa Rosa County with their emergency 911 communication systems by providing them with a safe, secure location to place their antennas and equipment. The emergency administrator's office has contacted the water system, requesting permission to upgrade their equipment and also to place a hurricane resistant building on HNWS property. Recent reception issues with deputies' radios have brought up concerns that the county is addressing. This is a perfect example of local organizations working together, to maintain a safe environment for the citizens of the Holley-Navarre area. We appreciate their efforts in resolving any issues that may hinder the emergency services available.



Board of Directors Annual Election

The next Annual Election of the Board of Directors is **January 16, 2018**. Two Board positions are up for election this year.

Members are encouraged to actively participate by serving as a Board member or showing their support for candidates that are running by casting their vote. Every vote counts!

Information will be posted to the HNWS website within the next couple of months at WWW.HNWS-FL.COM.



Water System Projects

- **Water Meter Upgrade** – We are proud to announce the completion of the meter upgrade project. The new “smart meters” have many benefits for both members and the water system. For members, they will allow you to make more informed conservation decisions and help manage water consumption. For the water system, the meters will reduce labor costs, improve enforcement efforts and help detect leaks earlier. We would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation during this process. We also ask for your continued patience while our staff familiarizes themselves with the new meters and address any issues that may arise.
- **Panhandle Lift Station Relocation** – The lift station located on the corner of Panhandle Trail and U.S. Highway 98 has been a concern for quite some time. Its close proximity to the busy intersection leaves it vulnerable to damage and poses a safety concern. The initial stages of the relocation has begun. The lift station will be farther away from traffic, near its current location on U.S. Highway 98.
- **Reuse Disposal** – Getting rid of reuse (also known as effluent or treated wastewater) has been an ongoing issue for the water system. As the population in the Holley-Navarre area continues to grow, the amount of water usage increases with it. More water consumption means more reuse to dispose of. This concern was the primary reason for the HNWS purchase of The Club at Hidden Creek golf course, to dispose of effluent through the use of spraying the greens. Another way of properly disposing reuse involves the use of RIBS, or Rapid Infiltration Basin Systems. The construction of two RIBS has begun, which will help ease our burden of reuse disposal. Several other options for future reuse disposal are also being explored. Finding a balance between meeting member needs and caring for our environment will continue to be a priority for HNWS.

Be Part of HNWS!

As we stated in the “About Us” section, the water system is under the direction of a seven member Board of Directors. Being a director is not an easy job, it’s a volunteer position that requires dedication and an eagerness to serve the community. One of their most valuable resources is feedback from members. After all, they are the owners of the company! Board meetings are held every third Tuesday of the month, right here in the board room at HNWS. Members are encouraged to attend and utilize this opportunity to stay updated on current events and to voice any concerns they may have. We also post the meeting agendas, meeting minutes, financial documents and meeting schedules on our website, WWW.HNWS-FL.COM.

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