

CHAPIN UTILITY NEWS SPLASH

Information for the Customers of the Chapin Utilities Department

Volume 3, Issue 1 Spring 2018

THREEPETE !!!

For several years, the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control has sponsored the Facility Award of Excellence program, which recognizes facilities that are striving for excellence in operations, protection of the environment, and striving to meet or exceed customer expectations. For the third consecutive year, the Chapin Utilities Department has been awarded the Facility Excellence Award for the Town's Wastewater Treatment Facility.



The award was presented at the annual South Carolina Environmental Conference on March 12, 2018 in Myrtle Beach. This award is a significant achievement and well deserved recognition for the operations staff of the Chapin Utilities Department.

2.4 MGD WWTP Groundbreaking Ceremony

The Town of Chapin held a groundbreaking ceremony to kick off construction of the new wastewater treatment facility. M. B. Kahn was the contractor selected for the construction of the plant with a low bid of \$13.8 Million.

The facility was designed by the engineering firm Hussey Gay Bell.



From left to right: Councilman Al Koon, Mayor David Knight, Councilman Mike Clonts, Councilwoman Kay Hollis, and Councilman Preston Baines

At the groundbreaking, Mayor Knight and Councilman Koon stressed the significance of how the new facility would promote improvement to and protection of the environment. This improvement to the environment will be achieved by the reduction of the amount of waste that is discharged on a daily basis. The current facility discharges an average of 600,000 gallons per day of treated wastewater.



With discharge limits of 45mg per liter of BOD5, the oxygen depleting organic matter in wastewater, the current plant discharges 225 pounds per day. If the

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2.4 MGD WWTP Groundbreaking Ceremony

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new wastewater plant discharges the permitted 2.4 million gallons per day at the intended design limit of 10 mg per liter, the discharge of BOD5 is reduced to 200 pounds per day at 4 times the current flow! The new facility will also be proactive in removing phosphorous (phosphate) and nitrogen (ammonia) from the discharge. So as can be seen, sustainability was indeed the message of the day.



The Project Team: Staff from M. B. Kahn, Hussey Gay Bell, and the Town of Chapin

Councilman Koon stated, “With construction of the new plant, our discharge to the Broad River.... will be cleaner than it ever has been before. I want my children, my children’s children, and every generation after that to know the environment like I knew it when I grew up here.” Koon also said, “Today, as we turn these first shovels of dirt, we are not at an end, we are actually at a beginning. There is much left to be done. I know that all of us working together with a single goal will make Chapin the best place in the world to live work and play.”

It is anticipated that construction of the new wastewater facility will take 18 months to complete, with a targeted completion date in August, 2019

Wastewater Rate Increase

The Town of Chapin implemented a rate increase for wastewater customers effective February 1, 2018. The new rate for customers within Chapin Town Limits is \$24.50 for residential customers and \$27.50 per REU (Residential Equivalent Unit) for commercial customers. The new rate for customers outside of Chapin Town Limits is \$42.50 for residential and commercial customers (per REU). While the rate increase for out of town customers is significant, the rates paid by Chapin wastewater customers is still below rates charged by other area providers.

Provider	In Town rate	Out of Town rate
Newberry County		\$59.60
Richland County *		\$46.54
City of Newberry	\$23.30	\$46.60
City of Columbia	\$35.63	\$60.63
City of Cayce	\$26.76	\$53.52
Lexington County		\$38.76
Town of Lexington	\$39.51	\$67.13

Rates based on base charge plus average usage of 6,000 gallons per month.

* indicates flat rate charges.

For many years, the out of town rate for Town of Chapin sewer customers has been disproportionate to the in-town rate. This is because, due to the farther transportation requirements, it is just more expensive to transport and dispose of out of town wastewater. Also, for many years, the Town of Chapin has used Tap Fee revenue for operational expenses, as opposed to using them for the intended purpose of replacement of infrastructure that has been used past its life expectancy and other capital improvement projects. By transferring the basic operating costs to the existing customer base, and using Tap Fee revenue (mostly accrued from development) for capital improvements, a more equitable means of system operation is being implemented. The end goal is to provide for a more stable rate structure that is only affected by changes in the cost of living.

The Utilities Department, as always, is happy and willing to answer questions regarding your bill. If you have questions, please call (803) 345-0416 during business hours.

Water and Sewer System Repairs Emergency Responses

- On 3/19/18 a contractor damaged a 4-inch forcemain near Whitewater Drive. Repaired by Town staff.
- On 3/16/18 a gas line contractor cut a water service at the end of Amick’s Ferry Road. Repaired by Town staff.
- On 3/16/18 it was discovered that vandals damaged a new installation of waterline in Timberlake Plantation. Repairs are underway by the developer’s contractor.
- On 2/12/18 Chapin Utilities staff discovered a damaged service line which allowed roots to completely clog the line and block wastewater flow causing sewer backups at two residences. The damage was old damage from a cable contractor that penetrated the service while installing cable service for the area.

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Water and Sewer System Repairs Emergency Responses

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Repairs were made by staff.

- On 1/29/18 Chapin Utilities staff repaired a tap for an air release valve on the 12-inch force main on Murray Lindler Road.



- On 12/4/17 a 10-inch water main broke on Amick's Ferry Road near Lake Tide Dr. Repairs were made by Chapin Utilities staff.
- On 11/21/17 a motorist ran the stop sign on Old Bush River Road at Murray Lindler Road. Considerable damage was done to the fence at the Town's wastewater pump station site. The fence was repaired by a contractor using a claim against the driver's auto insurance.



While these incidents highlight some of the emergency responses that Utilities Department staff handle both during and after normal business hours, it is not uncommon for staff to be called to perform pressure jetting on mains and service lines, replace float switches and pumps on LETTS pump systems, or respond to high water levels in its main pumping stations during storm events to prevent overflows.

Trivia Questions:

(answers on page 4)

1. What is the most important job of a water utility?
 - a. Pumping water from the source to the utility and maintaining the pumping equipment.
 - b. Ensuring public safety by posting "not potable" signs near treated water.
 - c. Protecting public health by ensuring that water is safe to drink and use.
 - d. Building and maintaining water storage tanks for water treatment plants.
2. What percentage of the Earth's surface is water?
 - a. 50%
 - b. 60%
 - c. 70%
 - d. 80%
3. Of all the water on the Earth's surface, what percentage is suitable to drink?
 - a. 1%
 - b. 10%
 - c. 16%
 - d. 20%
4. What is the main thing that wastewater treatment plants do?
 - a. Collect everything and haul it to a landfill.
 - b. Use chemicals to clean the wastewater.
 - c. Speed up the biological decomposition of waste in water.
 - d. It's a secret...
5. Why are manhole covers round?
 - a. So they can be easily rolled away.
 - b. So they can't fall down the hole.
 - c. Square covers weigh more.
 - d. No particular reason.

General water and wastewater trivia

- One drip per second from a leaky faucet wastes over 8 gallons of water per day or 3,000 gallons per year.
- The folks at Charmin, a popular brand of toilet tissue, estimate that the average person uses 57 sheets of toilet tissue per day.
- The toilet is often called "the john" after Sir John Herrington, who invented the flushable toilet in 1596.
- Tomato seeds can pass through the human digestive tract, sewer system and treatment plant and still germinate.
- A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.
- Toilets use from 25% to 40% of a home's water consumption

Utilities Department Contacts

Main Office (803) 345-0416
 Emergency Response (803) 605-9711
 (After Hours and Weekends)

Andy Metts - Director
 Susan Wright – Utilities Coordinator
 Theresa Hiott - Billing
 Dan Lambert, PE – Town Engineer
 Rey Angoluan – Inspections
 Richard Young – Water System Maint.
 Selina Sexton – Utility Locates
 Russell Wright – Operations Supervisor
 Eddie Gable – Lead Operator
 Matt Cameron – Maintenance Supervisor
 Jeff Smith - Maintenance
 Anthony Andrade – Public Works
 John Walston – Public Works

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER



Fri., April 13 – Community Prayer Breakfast (Town Hall 8:00 AM)

Sat., April 14 – Community Day of Service



Thurs., May 3 – National Day of Prayer



Fri., May 4 – Relay for Life (Crooked Creek Park 6:00 PM)



Sat., May 5 – Chapin Downtown Farmers Market (Clark Street 8:30 AM)

Sunday, May 13 – Mother’s Day



Mon., May 28 – Memorial Day (Town Hall closed)



Sat., June 2 – Chapin Downtown Farmers Market (Clark Street 8:30 AM)

Tuesday, June 5 – Town Council Meeting (Town Hall 7:00 PM)

Sunday, June 17 – Father’s Day



KNOW WHAT’S BELOW!!!!
 CALL BEFORE YOU DIG!!!!

REMINDER!!

- + The Town of Chapin prioritizes the protection of the environment from pollution, including overflows in the sanitary sewer system. If you see what you suspect may be a sewer overflow occurrence, please notify the Chapin Utilities Department in as timely a manner as possible, so our staff can investigate and minimize environmental consequences. YOU play a vital part in helping us keep our system operating smoothly!
- + Please remember to refrain from pouring oil and/or grease from cooking or automotive maintenance down sewers. Our wastewater facility can not accommodate the discharge of significant quantities of oils or grease.

UTILITY DEPARTMENT RECOGNITIONS

Congratulations to Russell Wright for being named the WEASC Capital District’s Operator of the year.

Congratulations to Susan Wright for being named the WEASC Capital District’s Customer Service Representative of the year.

Susan and Russell were Recognized at the WEASC Capital District Awards Banquet on January 18, 2018.

