

# DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

[www.donalawater.org](http://www.donalawater.org)

JULY 2019

## Construction Continues on Gleneagle Drive

As you have probably noticed, the construction of the water main replacement continues along Gleneagle Drive. The construction area has impaired normal driving due to condensed lanes as well as occasional lane closures. We do ask that everyone be extremely cautious when driving this section for their own safety as well as the safety of the workers. There have been a few close calls due to individuals speeding through the construction zone. As always, we appreciate your patience during this project

## I Think I May Have A Leak. How Can I Tell?

There are many types of leaks and most can be easily found through observation. The most common types of leaks are in your toilets, or irrigation systems. Leaky toilets can sometimes be difficult to diagnose, as they leak “silently”. By that I mean there are no visible signs of a leak, the water in the bowl is still and the toilet doesn’t run. An easy way to determine if your toilet is leaking is to place a dye tablet, or even several drops of food coloring, into the tank on the back of the toilet. Let it set for a while and then see if the toilet bowl has changed color. If it has, you should make the needed repairs. Often it is a simple matter of replacing the flapper valve on the bottom of the tank. Another method of leak detection is to watch your water meter, which is in your basement. Make sure that all water sources are turned off and then go to your water meter and open the cover to see if the gages are still turning. If they are, you may have a leak, or you may have forgotten to turn something off. This would include your irrigation system that should be temporarily shut off. These methods are simple ways to quickly determine if there is a leak. Don’t forget to turn whatever systems you have turned off, back on, once inspection is complete. The District does have dye tablets available, for no charge. Just stop by our office at 15850 Holbein and ask for as many as you need. Our billing system will “flag” accounts that show above, or below, normal consumption on the day that we bill. It does **not** alert us throughout the month. We will contact you directly if the account is showing an abnormally high use but keep in mind that the water has gone through the meter by this time and as a result it will reflect in a high bill. One final tip is to listen for a leak. When water is flowing through the pipes in our home, often you will be able to “hear” the water flowing. You may also be able to feel a vibration in your pipe. The best time for this is later in the evening when the outside noises are reduced. For further tips on locating leaks see our website, [https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/Possible\\_Leaks1.pdf](https://www.donalawater.org/images/docs/Possible_Leaks1.pdf).

For those who have the new cellular read meters installed, you may view your usage at any time or set your account to alert you in the event of a leak, at [www.eyeonwater.com](http://www.eyeonwater.com). We hope to have this new technology installed at each property within the next few years.

center. You may see Julie McDonald, our summer gardener, working in the garden, pruning, weeding and taking care of the garden. Julie is always happy to talk to anyone interested in the garden and can give you some great tips on how to create your own oasis. We have placed a “doggie station” in the garden and it seems to be a success. We do have a landscape brochure for the Donala Region. These are free and you are welcome to stop by our main office and pick one up or visit our website.

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## Call 811 Before Digging

Now that good weather is here, many residents are undertaking either construction projects, or landscaping projects. It is very important that if you are considering work that requires digging into your yard, or even modifying your sprinkler system, you should call 811 for a locate of all the underground utilities on your property. Every digging job requires a call – even for small projects like planting trees and shrubs. If you hit an underground utility line while digging, you can harm yourself, or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially be responsible for fines and repair costs. When you contact 811 (that's the actual number to call), you will be asked for the property address, along with additional information which will assist them in determining who needs to be contacted. A good rule of thumb is to call 811 if you are going to dig more than 12" deep on your property. It is much better to be safe and have them located. You would be surprised at what could be just under the surface: phone lines, cable lines, gas lines, electric lines and Donala's water and sewer lines. While most utilities can be found in the easement on your property, don't assume that you know where the utilities really are. For additional information, go to [www.colorado811.org](http://www.colorado811.org)

## Is It Ok To Connect My Sump Pump To My Home's Drain System?

Residents may have noticed that their sump pump is running more due to the recent rains we have had. We have received some calls about flooded basements and reports of water running off of property that appear to be a water line break; all as a result of rainfall. We are asked frequently if a homeowner can connect the sump pump discharge directly to their waste drain system. The answer is an emphatic no. The District prohibits the connection of a sump pump to a home's waste drain system for the simple reason that during heavy rains this water, when dumped into the waste drain, will hydraulically overload the waste water treatment plant and can easily wash out the biological process of the waste water treatment plant. The acceptable connection of a sump pump discharge is to either the French Drain System around the foundation (not all homes have this feature) or to direct the discharge to your back yard where it can soak into the soil and help your vegetation as well as protect your waste water treatment plant.

The Board of Directors and the entire Donala staff would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

Your General Manager,

*Kip Peterson*

