

DONALA WATER & SANITATION DISTRICT

(719) 488-3603

www.donalawater.org

JULY 2020



MAY BILLS



The month of May was a hot and dry one and our wells can certainly attest to it! In the month of April, the District pumped 16,973,000 gallons of water. That number jumped to 36,624,207 gallons for the month of May. (As of June 23, 28.5 million gallons have already been pumped). We did experience a total of 6 days of rain in May, however 4 of those rain events amounted to less than .01 inches each. The total rain for the month of May amounted to .95 inches (data received from the Donala weather station). Due to the lack of substantial moisture and the warm and windy days, the District saw a rather large increase of water usage mainly from lawn irrigation. We have fielded many calls concerning the much larger bills compared to last May, which was a very wet and snowy month. Of great concern to many who did call was whether there may be a leak at their home, of which a very small percentage did have a leak. This is always a concern to us as well and we recommend that residents check their system regularly.

Here are some tips on locating a leak:

First, check your meter to see if it is running while you have no water turned on.

If it is, you can isolate whether it is your irrigation system by turning off the main to the irrigation and if the meter stops then you know it is somewhere in that system. If it does not stop then you will need to continue your search. The next largest culprit for leaks are toilets. The easiest way to test your toilets for leaks is to place a few drops of food coloring into the tank of the toilet and do not flush. Let it sit for 30 minutes. If the color bleeds into the bowl then the toilet is leaking. You will need to adjust or repair the flapper and/or internal parts. Some homes have whole house humidifiers attached to their furnace. Those can also leak from time to time. Check to see if your solenoid has failed.

Other possible culprits:

Over the years we have had a plethora of causes of large usage. We have seen leaking hot water tanks; pitting in copper pipes; faucets left running; hoses being left on or turned on by someone else (sometimes for weeks); broken fountain sensors; vacant homes having heat turned off but not water, causing indoor pipes to freeze and burst; and my favorite - the family cat turning on the faucet when home alone, to name a few.

For those who have the cellular-based e-meters installed, you may sign up for EyeOnWater so that you may monitor your usage and set alerts for leaks. For those whom we have not yet updated to the newest technology, we recommend you regularly check your meter to see if it is running when no water is on. Another good tip is to measure the amount of water you use while irrigating. Some are surprised to learn they are using upwards of 2,000 gallons every time their sprinklers run. To do this just take a reading from your meter before you irrigate and then after. If you are using a large amount of water, it may behoove you to reduce the time the sprinklers are set to run. Bluegrass is fairly hardy and can handle some stress. Once the monsoons come in your grass will be lush and green again.

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Welcome New Employees

Donala is changing. In the Spring we brought on board Trevor Wilch as a full-time maintenance technician at the Waste Plant. He was previously a summer hire with the District. A second maintenance technician was also hired at the Waste Plant to replace JR Vialpando (who moved over to water operations), Carl Martinez. Carl was previously employed by Colorado Springs Utilities. Sharon Lewis is another previous Colorado Springs Utilities employee with 30-years of experience who will be working in the front office on a part time basis. Michael Boyett is our new Chief Waste-Water Operator (who replaced Terri Ladouceur) and is running the Waste Plant. He has over 35-years of experience and spent much of his time at the Englewood plant. Amy Acevedo will also be working at the Waste Plant as our Water Quality Specialist (who replaced Aaron Tolman). She was a Plant Control Analyst/Chemist at the Martin Drake Power Plant with Colorado Springs Utilities. We welcome their expertise and look forward to working with all of them.

Hydrant Access



Donala Water & Sanitation District, in conjunction with Wescott Fire Protection District are asking for help from homeowners keeping fire hydrants accessible. We ask that all vegetation be cleared to a minimum of four feet in all directions of a fire hydrant for ease of access and use. This will help in the remote occurrence that the Fire Department may need to use the fire hydrant in an emergency. It will also assist the Water District when we may need to flush the hydrant for water quality issues. We also ask that if you notice a fire hydrant that needs a new coat of paint to contact the Water District office at 719-488-3603. Both Districts greatly appreciate any and all assistance.

Lead & Copper Testing

Once a year, Donala is mandated by the State of Colorado to test homes for lead and copper constituents in their water. This testing has been ongoing since 1993. Donala currently tests 20 homes each test period. Letters will be sent out soon with instructions for participation. We typically test from the same homes each year, as the addresses must be pre-approved by the State in order to submit tests from that home. We greatly appreciate those homeowners who have participated in the past which has kept Donala in compliance with State regulations. If you are not home on the day the test samples must be drawn, let us know, as we can draw a test from your outside hose bib.

Your General Manager,
Jeff Hodge

