

# Water Lines

MOUNT PLEASANT WATERWORKS

April-May 2011



## Drinking Water Week May 1-7, 2011

A safe, reliable water supply is critical to the success of any community. It creates jobs, attracts industry and investment, and provides for the health and welfare of citizens in various ways ranging from disease prevention to fire suppression. We often take water supply for granted until it is threatened, either by drought, water main breaks, or some other event. For more than 30 years, the American Water Works Association and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together to recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

If you are like most people you probably don't think about the elaborate system that delivers water to your tap and removes it from your drains. Tap water affects our lives in so many ways, it impacts: public health, fire protection, economic development, quality of life.

## 24th Annual Town of Mount Pleasant Blessing of the Fleet

Join the fun and festivities on Sunday April 17th from 11:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Memorial Waterfront Park. Overlooking the beautiful Charleston Harbor, this seafood festival celebrates the historical Mount Pleasant shrimping industry with the majesty of the ceremonial Blessing of the Fleet and a host of other family activities. Free admission and free parking for this fun family event. Proceeds from the event help support the shrimping community as well as East Cooper charities.



Be sure to stop by Mount Pleasant Waterworks' H2O2GO for a cold drink of water.

## Help is available!

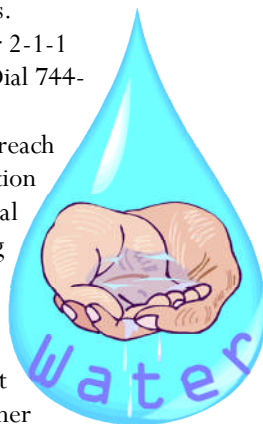
Have you met with difficult financial times that are making it hard to pay your utility bills?

Call Mount Pleasant Waterworks before your account falls behind so we can discuss your options.

The United Way can also help. Their 2-1-1 Hotline is available 24 hours a day. Dial 744-HELP from your cell phone.

East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) is an ecumenical organization which offers emergency financial assistance for utility bills to qualifying applicants who are screened by ECCO. The gift is based on need.

There are many community resources available to help— you just need to reach out. Call a Customer Service Representative at (843) 884-9626.



## Fiscal Year 2012 Budget Meeting Schedule

**April 18, 2011** Budget Workshop at 5:00 pm and Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 pm, including presentation of proposed rates, fees and charges for FY2012 and proposed policy adjustments

**May 16, 2011** Budget Workshop at 5:00 pm, and Regular Commission Meeting at 6:00 pm.

**June 6, 2011** Public Hearing on Proposed Operating and Capital Budgets and FY2012 rates, fees and charges at 5:30 pm.

**June 27, 2011** Annual Commission Meeting to Adopt FY2012 Budgets and Rates at 6:00 pm.

## Facts About Boron in Irrigation Water

- Boron, an element that is unregulated by the EPA for human health concerns, passes through MPW's Reverse Osmosis (RO) treatment process. The finished treated water has been tested and the boron levels are approximately 2.5 ppm.
- Guidelines provided by Clemson University, Agricultural Service Laboratory, indicate that some species of plants will experience problems with irrigation water concentrations exceeding 2.0 ppm.
- Certain species are more susceptible to boron toxicity including magnolias, hydrangeas, red tips, pear, apple, peach, pecan and citrus trees.
- Toxicity symptoms typically include a yellowing, spotting, or drying of leaf tissues (or these in combination). The damage appears on the older leaf tips. The younger leaves do not exhibit any symptoms.
- Only those areas receiving mostly RO treated water are affected. This includes the Old Village and older areas of Mount Pleasant off Ben Sawyer and Coleman Boulevard, the Mathis Ferry Road and Remley's Point area, Rifle Range Road from Ben Sawyer north to Six Mile Road, and Charleston National.
- Most other areas, especially Long Point Road and the Highway 17 North areas receive primarily Charleston Water System water which does not have Boron because it is treated surface water.

## Learn to be Water Wise



The Environmental Protection Agency encourages water efficiency with *Water Sense*.

Did you know that minor leaks account for more than 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes? In most cases, fixture replacement parts can be installed by do-it-yourselfers and pay for themselves in a short amount of time. Remember to look for the *Water Sense* label if you have to replace a bathroom fixture.

Here are a few water-saving tips:

- Reduce faucet leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and, if necessary, replace the faucet with a *Water Sense* labeled model.
- Leaky toilets are most often the result of a worn toilet flapper. Replacing the rubber flapper is a quick fix that could save a home up to 200 gallons of water per day.
- For a leaky garden hose, replace the nylon or rubber hose washer and ensure a tight connection to the spigot using pipe tape and a wrench.
- Landscape irrigation systems should be checked each spring before use to make sure they are not damaged by frost or freezing.

## Spring Irrigation Check –Up

Springtime's colors are already peeking out as local lawns and gardens begin their transformation from winter to the early growing season.

This is the perfect time to make sure your outdoor irrigation system is in good working condition. Here are a few helpful tips that could make your system more efficient.

### Preventive Maintenance

- Check and clean your irrigation hardware including sprinkler heads and all connectors. Rust and dirt deposits can clog systems if left unchecked over a period of years.
- Position broadcast sprinkler heads to avoid paved surfaces.
- Check your timer. If your system uses an automatic timer, make sure it's working properly by timing the system with a separate watch. Replace the batteries to preserve your timer settings.

**MPW Operations Center  
1619 Rifle Range Road  
Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
884-9626 (phone)**

**customerservice@mpwonline.com  
Email requests will be processed  
the following business day.**

## Help a Neighbor!



Turn your pennies into DOLLARS to benefit East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO) or Water Missions International (WMI). Just call 884-9626 and tell us you want to ROUND-UP your next bill payment to the next highest dollar and request the change go to either ECCO or WMI.

You can also sign up online by clicking the Customer Service tab on the navigation bar, then ROUND-UP on the dropdown menu.



## GO PAPERLESS, Sign Up For Electronic Billing This Month

Want to reduce your incoming mail and help keep your water bill at an affordable rate? Electronic billing through Mount Pleasant Waterworks' Easy Pay System is easy to use. After you sign up, you will receive a monthly email when your bill is available to be viewed. Electronic billing saves MPW money and that keeps your water and wastewater bill the second lowest in the tri-county area. To go paperless today, visit our website and sign up for Easy Pay Online.



The MPW Commission Newsletter, Water Lines, is produced in-house and mailed to customers each month with bills and statements. Current and past issues can also be viewed and downloaded from our website.