IWA PIPELINE

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CALLING FOR IWA BOARD CANDIDATES

It's election time at IWA again, and next year four seats on our Board of Directors will be up for election. Three of the four seats are currently held by Board President Dennis Berry, Board Vice President Ken Kouril, and Board Vice President & Secretary Paul Garvey. Board Vice President & Treasurer Jeffrey Springer's seat will also be up for election since he was appointed to the Board of Directors when Maureen O'Brien resigned from the Board in July.

Both Dennis Berry and Ken Kouril have finished one two-year term and are eligible for re-election to their second two-year term. Paul Garvey has completed his third and final two-year term. Jeffrey Springer is up for election for a one-year term to finish Maureen O'Brien's term.

IWA is governed by a five-member Board of Directors who all serve without pay. Directors must be residents of Sanibel or Captiva so that they can attend all Board meetings, and must be IWA members or an official representative of a condominium or other IWA Corporate Member. Directors must have no conflict of interest, including, but not limited to, active involvement in an enterprise which could potentially do business with IWA or which could benefit from involvement with the Association.

Board meetings are normally held once a month. Candidates for the four open seats are chosen by a Nominating Committee selected by the Board of Directors. The candidates are selected from a pool of applicants who apply for the seat, and will be interviewed by the Nominating Committee on January 23, 2019. The candidates are then elected by the Membership at IWA's Annual Meeting, which is held on the second Monday of every April. Next year, the annual meeting will be on Monday, April 8th. Anyone who would like to run for one of the open seats should contact Karen Warrick at (239) 472-2113, extension 125, Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM or via email at karen@islandwater.com no later than January 5, 2019. IWA is required to run a background check on all board candidates and all incoming board members are required to sign a Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy/Statement.

SANIBEL SCOUTS TOUR IWA PLANT

On October 2nd, the Sanibel Cub Scout and Boy Scout Pack 1740 toured the IWA R.O. Plant. Neil Erickson, a parent of three cub scouts and an employee of IWA for seventeen years, set up the tour for over a dozen scouts and scouting parents.

IWA employees Scott Sheldon, an "A" licensed water operator, and Chris Krupick, a "B" licensed water operator, conducted the tour of the R.O. Plant explaining the reverse osmosis process as the Scouts viewed the six membrane trains and walked through the plant. The tour group was also led outside to view our two 5-million-gallon storage tanks, the large generators, and two production wells that are all on-site.

IWA plant tours are always available for all IWA members every year after the annual meeting. Again, the next annual meeting is April 8, 2019 at 10:00 AM at the IWA office building.

Pack & Troop 1740

IWA FEATURED IN TPO MAGAZINE

IWA was featured in a five-page spread as a water plant top performer in the September issue of TPO (Treatment Plant Operator) magazine. Some featured highlights discuss IWA's recruitment of plant operators, IWA's raw water sources, water treatment, safety and training, in-house projects, and awards received over the years. The article offers an in-depth explanation of the numerous steps in our water treatment process from the brackish raw water taken from the Hawthorn and Suwannee aquifers, 500 to 800 feet deep, to the finished water provided to IWA members.

The TPO article highlights the three to five year process IWA uses in the development of R.O. Plant operators from employees with no water plant experience to licensed operators. Not only do plant operators learn water treatment at the IWA facility, they undergo training to become hazmat certified and they learn to undertake projects to keep the plant at a pristine level, quite a cost saving for IWA members.

Pat Henry and Ron Freitag with the plaque mounted in the lobby

The R.O. Plant at IWA has won numerous awards over the years and they are proudly displayed at the plant. Tours of the plant are offered to all IWA members every year the second Monday in April directly following the annual meeting. The link to read the article in its entirety is:

goo.gl/ZAtkHN
(case sensitive)

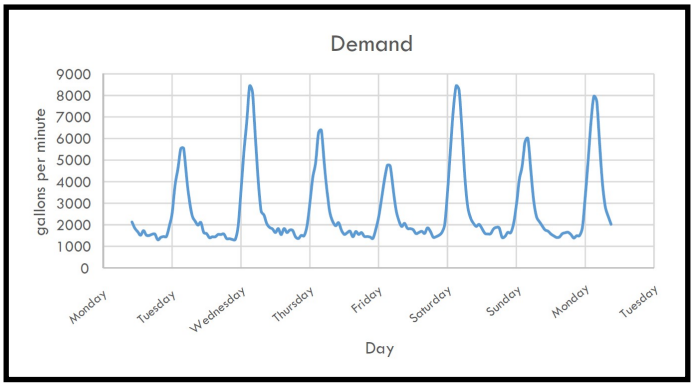
Alternatively, you can call the office at (239) 472-1502 for a printed copy, or you can stop by the office to read the article on the plaque mounted in the lobby.

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION

Red tide and blue-green algae are huge problems for Sanibel and Captiva. It is devastating for aquatic life, our health, and the economy in Southwest Florida. As individuals, we can be part of the solution by becoming better environmental stewards and protecting our water, a finite resource.

We all know that algae blooms are fueled by nutrients, in particular nitrogen and phosphorus. On Sanibel and Captiva, maintaining lush landscaping requires the use of potable water and fertilizers which can be rich in nitrogen and phosphorus. These fertilizers can make their way into bodies of water and increase the likelihood of algae blooms, especially during periods of high runoff, namely rainy season.

IWA has discovered through profiling that many of our members are not adhering to the water restrictions set forth by the South Florida Water Management District and do not have working rain sensors. During rainy season, also peak lightning season, many irrigation systems can reset to their default settings and water every day after a power interruption. This is likely when the backup battery for the system has malfunctioned. The lack of adherence to the water restrictions is apparent on the IWA Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) when water use sharply spikes every morning between midnight and 5am. IWA has also observed that watering does not significantly decrease during rainy season, indicating either a malfunctioning rain sensor or no rain sensor at all.



A graph of our water demand over an eight day period showing peak demand every night at roughly 4:00 AM

Good stewardship of a finite resource is everyone's responsibility and IWA members can do their part by limiting irrigation to the allotted days set by the South Florida Water Management District. You can visit South Florida Water Management District's website at https://www.sfwmd.gov for water

restrictions and water conservation tips. Members should check with an irrigation specialist to ensure overwatering does not occur and that rain sensors are present and in working order.

Be part of the solution. Do not overwater your landscaping, especially during rainy season when runoff is at its highest. Make sure that you have a working rain sensor. Do not use fertilizers, especially in the rainy summer months. Consider removing some of your grass and replacing it with native, Florida-friendly vegetation that doesn't require fertilizers and irrigation. Not only will you be part of the solution to end the red tide and blue-green algae problems, but you can help ensure that a finite resource is available for future generations. In addition, you can decrease the amount of your monthly water bill. For more on water conservation and saving money on your monthly water bill this winter, read further.

WEATHER CHANGES DUE TO EL NIÑO

As noted in the fall Pipeline, Southwest Florida is likely to experience an El Niño winter in 2019. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is forecasting a 70 – 75% chance of El Nino conditions this winter. El Niño is predicted to materialize in late December or early January.

El Niño is a warming of surface water temperatures in the tropical Pacific Ocean. That warming changes where the thunderstorms form in the Pacific so that the jet stream goes over Florida instead of north of Florida. An El Niño winter typically means a wetter and slightly cooler winter for Southwest Florida. NOAA is predicting above average rainfall between now and May 2019. Many Sanibel and Captiva residents remember the last El Niño winter in 2015-16 that brought record rainfall and caused our rivers to be inundated with freshwater. Ecological damage with blue-green algae blooms followed. The predictions for this El Niño are not as severe as 2015-16, but the need for landscaping irrigation should be decreased in the upcoming winter months.

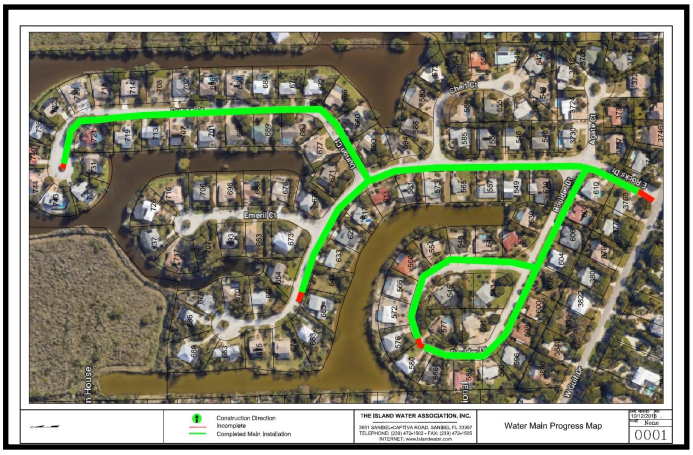
Now is the time to check your rain sensor to make sure it has been installed correctly and that it is working. If you don't have a rain sensor tied to your irrigation system, by Florida law, you are required to have one installed if you have an automatic irrigation system. Having a properly working rain sensor could save you money during the usually dry winter months if, in fact, we experience an El Niño winter in Southwest Florida.

EAST ROCKS PROJECT WRAPPING UP

Restoration of landscaping is under way in the East Rocks subdivision. All of the new water mains have been installed on East Rocks Drive, Boulder Drive and Durion Court. The new water mains were pigged (large styrofoam bullet shaped objects were pushed through the new mains), flushed, chlorinated, pressure tested, and flushed again. After that water samples were delivered to the Florida Department of Health for bacteriological testing.

The Department of Health has cleared the new East Rocks facilities for service. IWA has now removed the temporary meter and backflow prevention device and additional water samples were taken, tested, and have been cleared.

IWA is currently in the process of tying in our members on East Rocks Drive, Boulder Drive and Durion Court to the new water main. IWA will still need to connect the new water mains to the existing water mains on Agate Court, Chert Court, Emeril Court and at 653 East Rocks Drive. The final subdivision connection will then need to be completed. There will be more boil water notices and more bacteriological testing for all of the East Rocks subdivision after these tie-ins. Lastly, IWA will activate the new fire hydrants and the old fire hydrants will be removed.



Engineering diagram showing the progress of the East Rocks project

This project should be completed and landscaping restored as closely as possible to its previous condition by the end of the year.

BRINE SUMP UPDATE

The new brine sump is nearing the end of construction. The concrete storage facility has been completed. Stairs on the side of the new brine

sump are being formed and the piping from the old brine sump to the new brine sump has been installed and pressure tested. The new pumps that will be mounted on top of the new brine sump are scheduled for delivery by the end of November. Once the new pumps have been installed, the conduit for the power will be run to the new brine sump and a new outside light will be mounted close by.

The new brine sump nearing completion

For new members or those new to reading the IWA Pipeline, brine is the leftover mineral concentrate created by the R.O. process and comprises about 20% of the raw water coming in from the IWA well field. IWA is able to recover 80% of the raw water as nearly distilled potable water.

The brine sump is a holding tank for the brine until it is pumped down our injection well. A new brine sump was constructed because the present brine sump is nearing its maximum capacity and the three pumps and motors for the existing brine sump are below flood level. The new brine sump will have increased capacity and the vertical turbine motors will be well above flood level. This project is expected to be completed early next year.

MORE IWA REMINDERS

If you employ a home watch for your property, we highly recommend that he/she read your water meter when checking your home. Island Water reads your water meter once a month. By reading the meter regularly, leaks and high usage can be caught before the problem has gone on for an entire month. Water meters are located in the utility easement of your property, usually either the far right or far left corner of your property. Reading the water meter is just like reading the odometer of a car. All of our meters also have a flow indicator on them which looks like a red gear. If that red gear is turning, it means that water is going through the meter. There is a diagram on our website showing how to read the water meter and how to isolate a potential leak. If your home watch cannot find your water meter, one of technicians will be happy to assist him/her.

If you have a backflow prevention device at your property (see the photo below), it belongs to you, the property owner. IWA tests all domestic backflow prevention devices every year as a courtesy to our members, but our technicians are not licensed to repair the backflow devices.

You will receive a letter from IWA if your backflow prevention device does not pass its annual inspection. Mysanibel.com has a list of licensed plumbers and irrigation contractors that can work on Sanibel to repair or replace your backflow prevention device.

The Island Water Association, Inc.
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