



# IWA Pipeline

The Island Water Association's Quarterly Newsletter



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## *IWA Reinvests into Saint Kilda*

The old adage, “Out of sight, out of mind”, does not apply to the over 100 miles of buried water main that IWA operates and maintains throughout the islands. This underground network of pipes, valves and connections is the backbone to life on our islands. Safe, potable water delivered to each home, storefront and park allows us to take for granted basics such as food preparation, sanitation, hydration and a cool dip in the pool.

Nationwide, infrastructure, including water systems, has largely been ignored and left to degrade. Every four years the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) produces a report card on the nation's infrastructure which includes an evaluation of sectors such as bridges, energy, wastewater and drinking water. In 2017, America's infrastructure scored a D+. Although the State of Florida fared better, with an overall infrastructure score of C, it is not a report card you hang with pride on the refrigerator. The inefficiencies and inconveniences that occur from poor infrastructure have real economic consequences, costing time, energy and money.

Recognizing the importance of a reliable and well-maintained water distribution system, the IWA Board of Directors and staff implemented an annual water main replacement program in 2002. Since this time over 25% of the water mains on Sanibel and Captiva have been replaced with new, upsized and upgraded strength pipe materials. This investment into the water system increases the quality and dependability of the infrastructure, resulting in fewer breaks and service interruptions. Notably, the upgraded infrastructure reduces water loss through leaks and unplanned repairs, conserving our vitally important potable water resources.

As of the printing of this newsletter, work should be underway on the latest water main replacement project in the St. Kilda Subdivision. The work taking place will upgrade the original developer installed water main with higher strength pipe and new fire hydrants. All work will be performed using materials and construction methods that meet current IWA and industry standards.

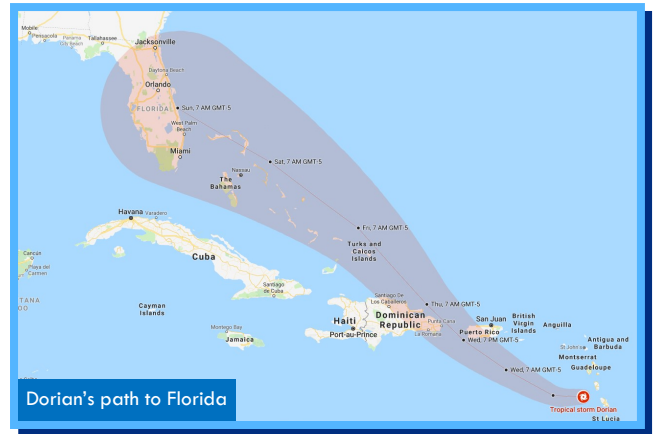
Periodic project updates can be found on the IWA website, [islandwater.com](http://islandwater.com), in the "Latest Capital Project" section of our homepage. We appreciate the patience and cooperation of the residents in the St. Kilda Subdivision as we reinvest in our critical infrastructure to improve our water system's reliability and service.

## Storm Season Update

On August 8th, NOAA revised its predictions for 2019 to have an above average hurricane season, consisting of 10-17 named storms, with 5-9 becoming hurricanes, and 2-4 of those becoming major hurricanes. As of August 31, there have only been 2 hurricanes and 1 tropical storm, with one of the named storms, Dorian, heading towards us. We don't anticipate anything other than moderate winds and heavy rain here on Sanibel, but by no means should you lower your guard for the rest of the season. Always be prepared while we are in hurricane season which runs through November 30.

IWA's storm preparations begin in May with a review and update of our Emergency Response Plan, which includes storm preparation and response after the storm. We check all of our equipment and supplies that are dedicated to storm response, such as chainsaws, flashlights, rain gear and extra fuel. We rotate out our emergency food supplies and test run our

four 125KVA generators. Our maintenance staff has been busy with trimming the trees on IWA properties to help prevent flying tree limbs from causing damage to our property and equipment, as well as our neighbors, in the event of a storm. The last thing we do before an approaching storm is install over 50 Lexan storm shutters. The shutters were put to the test during Hurricanes Charley & Irma, and they performed flawlessly.



## Meet Cate Long

The Island Water Association, Inc. welcomes Cate Long as our new Membership Coordinator. Cate, her fiancé Zac, and 7-month-old Jacob, live in the Fort Myers area where they enjoy fishing, taking Jacob to the park and beach, and watching the Atlanta Braves. Cate believes working on Sanibel gives her a great excuse to be on the island every day and meet the people who live here.



Cate has only been at IWA for a few weeks and is rapidly learning the complicated billing software and field communication system. Cate's words to live by are, "It takes no more time to see the good side of life than it takes to see the bad." We are excited to have her on our team.



## Seasonal Address Changes

As summer comes to a close, we here at IWA are starting to see address change requests from our seasonal winter residents. We strongly advise changing your billing address for your IWA bill to your Sanibel address for the winter months. The most effective way to change your address is to call us directly. Changing your address with our office alleviates any delays or confusion in receiving your water bill. Water problems can arise when no one is in residence so it is especially important to get your water bill every month to monitor your water usage.

## Direct Debit Program

Tired of mailing us your payment every month? Join many of your fellow IWA Members and enroll in our direct debit program. We will automatically debit your bank account each month, after you have had a chance to review your bill. IWA will save the cost of opening your payment and inputting it into our system, thereby helping keep our costs and your water rates as low as possible. Call our Membership Coordinator, Cate, at (239) 472-1502 to enroll. She will be happy to discuss the program with you and to answer any questions you may have. We look forward to seeing all of our winter friends soon.

## Backflow Prevention Devices

Have you ever wondered what those less than beautiful plumbing devices are that stick up above the ground near your water meter? They are called backflow prevention devices. The purpose of backflow preventers is to prevent water from “flowing back” into the water distribution system due to back-siphonage or backpressure. Such “backflow” could cause serious contamination of our water system and cause a public health hazard. While they are not installed on every meter on the islands, backflow devices are required by law to be installed on any residential property that has a hazard such as an irrigation system, pool or well. The devices are required on all new construction or remodeling and on any commercial property as well.

Although backflow devices are owned by members, IWA has a program established for testing the devices on a recurring basis at no charge to our members. If the device fails the testing, we send the member a

letter informing them that a licensed plumber needs to be called to repair the backflow device. Once we receive notice that the work is completed, we will make another inspection to ensure the device is working correctly. Our technicians are certified in the testing of backflow devices and they are recertified every two years to keep current on standards.



A typical backflow prevention device

Just as with our water meters, we ask that you avoid placing plants too close to the backflow devices. Our technicians need access to them for testing, and in the case of water meters, to record the readings. If the beauty of the backflow device is questionable, we suggest painting the pipe and supports with black or green paint. The backflow preventers will be less noticeable and the paint will help protect the plastic fittings from the sun's rays.

## What's a VFD?

One way that IWA reduces energy costs related to treating and distributing water is by using Variable Frequency Drives (VFDs) on most of our electric pump motors. Motor speed is dependent on the frequency of the alternating current (AC) voltage applied to the motor. In the US, we use 60 Hertz (Hz) AC voltage. A 3,600 RPM motor running at 60 Hz will turn at 3,600 RPM. If the frequency is reduced to 30 Hz, it will turn at 1,800 RPM.

VFDs allow the operators to adjust the frequency applied to the motors, thereby adjusting motor speed and water flow. VFDs provide other benefits along with energy savings and can be easily added to existing motors. Before VFDs, flow control was achieved by opening and partially closing valves while the pump and motor continued to operate at full speed, using maximum power. As the speed of a motor is reduced, so is energy consumption. VFDs also allow us to maintain constant pressure in our dis-



tribution system as the demand (flow) rises and falls throughout the day and night.

Maintenance savings are also realized by using VFDs. Traditional motor starters apply full voltage to a motor instantaneously at start-up. This brings the motor and pump to full speed very quickly, causing pressure spikes that hammer pipes and joints, increasing chances for premature failures. Use of VFDs can also lower our LCEC charges by reducing motor startup current.

VFDs allow for an adjustable time period for motor run-up, eliminating stress on the motor, pump and the piping system. The increased use of these drives over the last decade has drastically lowered initial installation and ongoing operational costs. This is one more way IWA has found to keep water production and delivery costs down for our members.

## [Consumer Confidence Report](#)

The 2018 edition of IWA's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report, also known as a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR), is available at this URL:

[bit.ly/IWA2018CCR](http://bit.ly/IWA2018CCR)  
(case sensitive)

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection rules state that as long as we post a direct URL on our website, post a direct URL in our quarterly newsletter at least twice during the year, and a hard copy is available in our lobby, we are not required to directly mail the CCR. We will be happy to mail a copy of our CCR to anyone who requests it by calling (239) 472-1502. The EPA-required annual report covers

our water quality for 2018.

Please read over this information, and if you have any further water quality related questions, give our Production Manager, Pat Henry, a call at (239) 472-2113, extension 122, or stop in our office during business hours.

## [FWPCOA Safety Award](#)

The Florida Water and Pollution Control Operators Association awarded The Island Water Association, Inc. with their annual Safety Award which recognizes facilities who have an outstanding safety record. FWPCOA recognizes that we excel in our safety training and successful implementation of safety practices.



Brandon Henke and Ron Freitag in front of our awards

Safety awards send strong messages to staff on the importance of maintaining a safe workplace and the value that the company places on a healthy workforce.



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