**Colorado City Happenings**

**October 2024, and fall is here!**

As of September 22, at 6:44 AM, we are officially in fall. At the Metro District that means the heavy pressure of managing water, both potable and not, starts to ease up and we turn our eyes to Greenhorn Mountain. Every storm, we hope, drops precious snow there to recharge our watershed for next year. Right on cue, we received a decent amount of moisture on that first day of fall! While some folks are sad to see summer leave, those of us working to deliver our most precious resource want a snowy winter to refill Lake Beckwith.

**Wells:**

As many of you know, when Beckwith starts to shrink, when the District uses more water than flows down Greenhorn and Cold Springs creeks, we bolster supply with well water. So what is the status of those wells? CCMD has the water rights to use six high production wells located throughout the property, on a gallon per minute basis. Shortly, we will have the potential for 700 to 800 GPM, should the need arise. Generally speaking, when we absolutely have to rely on wells to augment creek flows, it is not cheap. Running all those wells for one full day, if all were called on to produce during one day is very expensive. Thus, we only run the wells full bore when absolutely necessary. As of this writing, two wells are producing correctly, when we choose to use them. Another well is producing at 40%, and we are troubleshooting the low output. Two main wells are down, knocked offline by lightning last year. We are late fixing them due to delays in the insurance settlement, and the availability of the technicians. Those hurdles look to be taken care of now, and repairs look promising for next year’s needs, just in case! But it is best (and much cheaper) to rely on Mother Nature piling up snow on Greenhorn.

**Infrastructure repai**r

One of the main ideas for discussion leading up to the May, 2023, Metro Board election was ghost water. That is water that once treated at the water plants, never makes it to the ledger as billable water. From <https://www.wateronline.com/>, the number commonly reported by municipalities is from 30% to 40% loss. From that website, “A real loss is water that's just gone. The utility brought it up from the ground, pulled it from the surface water, then the plant treated it, pumped it out into the system, used the energy to bring it out to the system and got no revenue back from it. Nobody used it, it's just gone.”

In CCMD, we calculated at the start of the year that CCMD’s treated water **loss** was above 50%. That is unacceptable. Fortunately, we are making progress on the problem. Recently, water valve improvements were made in the North Park subdivision to isolate service breaks, and not have to shut down half of Colorado City when those occur. While doing so, the Metro crews discovered a phantom 6” water line that delivers water to - we don’t know where.  That’s a very large delivery pipe to a mystery location. Crews capped it off at North Park Drive. Turns out in the “old” days of CCMD development, record keeping was not a high priority. Time will tell what the impact of that discovery will be.

Additionally, CCMD has determined that more than 100 water meters need to be replaced in the Applewood subdivision. These new meters will give more accurate flow measurement. Both of these steps will give the CCMD better accounting of the water we produce, giving you, the consumers, better value on your water bill.

**Parks and Rec**

As the days get shorter and students go back to their books, the summer programs in Parks and Rec conclude. On the wet side, the swimming pool provided a sparkling place for getting the pulse rate up.  Daily, lap swimming started the pool day, with ample numbers filling the lanes. Next, water aerobics, with an average of  10 participants, filled the water. Perhaps more important than we can know now, the maximum 120 youngsters took swim lessons. How important can that be down the road? And did you know the pool was a venue for swim parties? Twenty-five were booked this last summer! Also, the pool stayed open two extra weeks for the community.

On the dry side, the Campground was nearly booked every weekend this summer, with 25 to 30 campers. Weekday use was also healthy with 10 campers per day. On the diamond, T-Ball had 41 youngsters learning the basepaths, while five teams (60 players) that played at Runyon, practiced here. The field also supports the high school players. So about 120 baseballers, in all, packed the field.

**Hollydot Golf Course**

2024 has been a robust year for Hollydot Golf Course. Revenues are improved over 2023, and it’s no accident. People from up and down the Front Range, and elsewhere,  are booking tee times online, and in-person, because the course is so nice to play. The greens are impeccable, and not too fast or too slow. The fairways have been resurrected from winter kill in 2023, and they are deluxe. In the pro shop, more aggressive marketing and management networking have brought in more regular play and more tournaments. A cheerful staff makes it a welcoming place to spend your money! And as always, the Round Table restaurant continues to provide a friendly watering hole for thirsty golfers, and consistent, quality food for the whole community.

**Drop Box** A reminder:

For your convenance, a secure 24/7 drop-box is located on the north side of the CCMD office to pay your district bill. You can also pay online at [www.coloradocitymd.org](http://www.coloradocitymd.org) or by phone (719-676-3396) Don’t use any punctuation when you enter your account number. (for example, 1234.56 should be entered as 123456).

**The Continuing Story…**

Not a Metro meeting goes by when the board and staff are not having serious conversation about the status of the quest to fund a better dam and water plant. It is constant work, and props go out to Manager Jim, Greg and Gary for consistently, daily, working the problem.

**Costumer Notice: This is included in your bill**

 We are working with CDPHE (Colorado Department Public Health and Education) and EPA (Environmental Protection Agency)on service line connection to make sure that there is no Lead, or Galvanized lines that might have been downstream of a lead service line. If your house was built after 1987 there is no need to worry about this because the requirements will not apply to your residency. The next bill will have a form that will need to be completed and returned. Thank you for your assistance through this process.

**Finally**… watch your driving around the end of October - could get SPOOKY!!!