

# COLUMBIA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT NEWS

May 2013 Issue

*The office is open Mon, Wed and Fri from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (closed for lunch from 12:00–1:00 pm)*

*Please note we do not accept post dated checks. If a post dated check is received we will mail it back to the address on the check and your account may incur late fees.*

*District meetings are every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm at the District office. They are open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend.*

## **Tap Water and the Water System**

The water that flows from your tap is more than a convenience, it is central to the quality of life that we all enjoy. A well maintained water system is critical to ensure public health and fire protection. Tap water is so intricately woven into our lives that we rarely think about it, yet can hardly imagine a day without the availability of this critical service. How would we prepare our food, wash dishes and clothes, bathe, brush our teeth, water plants and other daily tasks? Only tap water provides all of these daily benefits and yet the service and infrastructure needed to provide it is often taken for granted.

Water supply infrastructure is at a critical point all across the country and the Columbia Valley Water District is no exception. Much of the water system was constructed in 1971 and many of the system's components will be reaching the end of its useful life in years to come. Therefore, necessary investments in pipes, pumps and tanks are being made now to ensure that we will have the same access to safe and reliable drinking water in the future that we now enjoy.

There are costs to maintaining and replacing these critical water system components, but they can be managed with the careful planning of the Board of Commissioners, the hard work of the staff and with your feedback and support. **Together**, we can keep our water system strong and the water service reliable.

## **Access to Your Meter Box and Fire Hydrants**

Most water meter boxes are located in a utility easement along the front of the property. Property owners are responsible for maintaining a clear pathway to and around the water meter. Are the water meters and fire hydrants on your property visible and accessible?

Ensuring that fire hydrants and water meters are in good working condition are two priorities for the District. CVWD staff has to be able to get to your meter easily in an emergency or to perform repairs and maintenance. Every now and then, our employees find water meter boxes that are hidden by surrounding bushes or overgrown shrubs as well as behind fences; making it difficult to access.

As you begin your spring cleanup, CVWD asks you to take the time to maintain the proper clearance around your meter box. Water meter boxes must be clear six feet above the meter box, two feet to each side and have "free and clear" access, which means without obstructions (a fence, landscaping borders, etc.) Please do not park cars or place any debris on top of or around the meter box. If your box does not meet the minimum clearance requirements, you will be notified in writing. Failure to meet the minimum requirements after written communication has been sent may result in penalties to your account.

If you have plans to re-landscape, put up a fence, or do any other work around a water meter box, please contact the District at 360-599-1699 before you begin your project. Your meter box may need to be raised or replaced.

## **Some Upcoming District Projects**

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| • Water System Plan Update               | Projected Completion: June 2013 |
| • Well Source Meter Replacement          | Projected Completion: July 2013 |
| • Lower Division System Pressure Repairs | Projected Start Date: July 2013 |
| • (3) Fire Hydrant Replacements          | Projected Completion: Sept 2013 |

