



835 East Highway 56, Berthoud, CO 80513 Office/Emergency Phone: 970-532-2096
Visit our website at www.ltwd.org
WINTER 2017 NEWSLETTER

District Manager's Message

On behalf of all of us at Little Thompson Water District, I wish you the best in 2017!

After 23 years as the District Engineer, I was appointed District Manager in September 2016. As District Engineer, I worked with many of you and I have appreciated your support. As the new District Manager, I am excited about the opportunity to meet the challenges ahead and pledge to provide our customers with the best drinking water and customer service we can deliver. We are proud of the trust and support we received from our District customers over the past 55 years.

Each fall, as a part of our budgeting process, we review and adjust our rates to reflect the cost of providing service. Based on our anticipated expenses, we determine whether a rate increase is needed. In 2017, rates for our residential and non-residential customers will increase by 6 percent to cover both rising costs for our water supply and increased expense for water treatment to meet water quality regulations. The monthly base rate is not increasing. New rates are effective for water used beginning in January 2017. We know our customers depend on us for affordable water, and we work diligently to keep our costs down and avoid any unnecessary rate increases.

As you may know, we have sent information to our customers about a water quality issue that affected our system in the past year. Like most water providers, we monitor the quality and safety of our water to assure compliance with mandated regulations. When routine monitoring found a water quality issue in some of our samples, we made changes to the Carter Lake Filter Plant treatment process. Additional corrosion control measures have helped reduce potential risk for exposure to lead from the pipes and fittings in your home. We have just finished our latest round of lead and copper sampling and believe the process changes have been beneficial.



Finally, last year's hot, dry weather has resulted in drought conditions along the Front Range. The National Drought Mitigation center shows a portion of our service area under a severe drought and the rest of our area in moderate drought. The District water supply system is in good shape, and we anticipate that our sources of water will improve with the winter snow pack. The District's Dry Creek Reservoir is full, and we will store our carryover water in the Colorado-Big Thompson (C-BT) water system over the winter months. Although we do not currently have any reason to require watering restrictions, we continue to encourage water conservation that focuses on reducing waste.

Thank you again for your support,
Michael T. Cook, District Manager

Winter Watering in Colorado

Although winter storms likely will bring some moisture to the Front Range in the coming months, the past fall was unseasonably warm and dry according to local weather reports. These warm, dry spells can create a winter drought that is tough on our trees and shrubs. To avoid drought damage to your landscape, water trees and shrubs periodically, typically after four weeks without snow cover. It's best to water early in the day, about 30 minutes in each area so that water can soak into the ground before freezing nighttime temperatures.

Don't activate your sprinkler system for winter watering and disconnect and drain the hoses after watering. Colorado State University's Extension Service publishes *PlantTalk Colorado*™ with a variety of fact sheets and videos on landscape care. Visit www.ext.colostate.edu to learn more.

Accolades for Judy Dahl

Pictured below is Judy Dahl, District Business Manager and President of the Colorado Government Finance Officers Association, holding the "Outstanding Contribution Award" that she was recently presented by the Colorado Municipal Clerks Association. This award reflects her dedication to government finance and the work that the organization does to help finance professionals continue their education.



Rain Barrels



After decades of discussion, Colorado legislators passed Bill 1005 allowing the collection and use of rain barrels by the state's homeowners. Rain barrels make it easier to catch and store rain that runs off the roof and down the gutter. Once it's stored in the barrel, it can be used to irrigate landscapes and gardens. Homeowners conserve treated water and avoid some of the cost of landscape watering with water from metered connections to the District's distribution system. Since treated water isn't needed for landscapes, water districts also can reduce some of the cost of water treatment.

Rain barrels are available in stores such as Home Depot, Lowe's, Ace Hardware and home and garden centers. Homeowners can find a variety of rainwater collections systems—from simple and inexpensive to complicated and expensive. At its most basic, all that is needed is a system of gutters, downspouts and a collection system such as a rain barrel. Use of rain barrels can save water and money, but homeowners need to be aware that untreated water can be a risk if used for human consumption. *Don't drink the water in your rain barrel!* Also, keep your barrel's lid sealed to avoid breeding mosquitoes and consider filtering the water to avoid concentrations of impurities from roofing materials and bird droppings. Limit your use of water stored in your barrel to outdoor use.

Look for more information on rain barrels: extension.colostate.edu, *Rainwater Collection in Colorado*; Conservation Colorado's website www.conservationco.org; and *Tree People's How to Install a Rain Barrel* at www.treepeople.org.