NOTICE OF MEETING (S) BUDGET TO BE REVIEWED

To the Donala Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors, residents, property owners within the District, and others who may be concerned:

Notice is hereby given that a meeting has been scheduled for October 15, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. of the Donala Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors. The meeting will be held at the Donala District Office located at 15850 Holbein Drive in the Gleneagle Subdivision, El Paso County, Colorado.

At this regularly scheduled meeting, the Board will discuss the proposed budget for 2021 (including the 2021 Availability of Service Fees, Tap fees and Water and Sewer Rates). Copies of the proposed budget will be available at the District Offices on October 13th.

Notice is further given that a meeting has been scheduled for December 10, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. to be held at 15850 Holbein Drive. At the December meeting, the budgets will be ratified, the Water and Sewer Rates set, the Tap Fees set, and the 2021 Availability of Service rates set but the October meeting is the time to offer your comments and observations.

COLD WEATHER IS COMING!!!

That means you need to monitor the temperature and be ready to winterize your sprinkler system. When the temps fall to 30 °F at night, drain your system and disconnect any hoses outside. You may also want to change your watering schedule to water during the day to avoid frost on your lawn. Remember that a forecast of 30 °F in the city usually means 4-5 degrees less here in the District.

When you finally shut the system down for the winter, consider blowing it out with an air compressor. The problem is that water does not drain from some of your low, flat spots, and it freezes during the winter. Next spring, if you don’t wait long enough for it all to thaw, you’ll spring a leak at the frozen spot. An air compressor will blow it all dry and keep the leaks down. For those commercial and irrigation accounts with backflow protection devices, don’t forget to drain and winterize them as well.

For those who will be gone during the winter months, be sure to either keep your heat to at least 55, or turn off the water in your home to prevent pipes from freezing. If you leave your water on, you should keep the cupboard doors to your sinks open so the heat can reach your pipes.
Fats, Oils and Grease, Otherwise Known as FOG

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and this is when most wastewater treatment facilities encounter the largest influx of Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG). FOG consists of fat from animal meats, shortening, butter, bacon grease, food scraps, salad dressings and marinades; just to name a few.

Last year, the Upper Monument Creek Wastewater Treatment Facility (your waste treatment plant) experienced a huge amount of FOG during the holiday season. This causes both physical and biological problems at the plant. This meant special, expensive, treatment to get the facility back under control. This gets expensive in the form of chemicals and manpower. The second problem to us, and probably foremost to you, is that your own household sewer lines can get clogged with that same FOG. What customers send down the drain doesn’t always make it to our treatment facility. Some of that same FOG stays in household wastewater lines and starts coating your lines (much like cholesterol in our arteries). Hot soapy water does not clean out those lines. As that FOG builds up, your wastewater lines clog up more and more resulting in what is called at Fatberg. Below is a list of Do’s and Don’ts as well as a photo of a Fatberg in a sewer line.

- Don’t put anything with fat, oil or grease down the drain. **Used oil can be dropped off at El Paso County Household Chemical Waste Collection by appt. only. 3255 Akers Dr. 719-520-7878.**
- Before rinsing out pans, wipe out the grease first with a paper towel. Then rinse with cold water so the residual grease will flush as it is and not congeal to the sides of your pipes.
- Be careful using chemicals to clear grease clogs as they can damage your plumbing. Make sure you know what kind of piping you have prior to pouring chemicals down the drain.

Other culprits are dairy products such as old milk, buttermilk, yogurt and sour cream. Not only is the fat content a problem, but dairy products change the Ph balance in the waste treatment plant which essentially kills off the good bacteria used to treat waste. When this happens, it is virtually impossible to bring back the bacteria in the colder temperatures of Fall, Winter and Spring.

**Hydrant Access**

With Fall and Winter rapidly approaching, Donala Water & Sanitation District, in conjunction with Wescott Fire Protection District are asking for help from homeowners. We ask that all vegetation and snow be cleared to a minimum of four feet in all directions of a fire hydrant for ease of access and use. This will help in the remote occurrence that the Fire Department may need to use the fire hydrant in an emergency. It will also assist the Water District when we may need to flush the hydrant for water quality issues and during the Spring to prepare for irrigation season. We also ask that if you notice a fire hydrant that needs a new coat of paint to contact the Water District office at 719-488-3603. Both Districts greatly appreciate any, and all assistance.

Your General Manager,
Jeff Hodge