

News Around The Water Tower

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RWD #2

Rural Water District No. 2 Miami County, KS 25290 Harmony Road Paola, KS 66071

Water Towers Get A Facelift

Rural Water District No. 2 has recently given two of its water storage towers a facelift. The towers are routinely serviced for maintenance. This year the District budgeted for two of the four towers to receive inspection, repair, cleaning and painting. Each tower is taken out of service, drained and inspected inside and out for problems. Besides the tank, the riser, expansion assembly, ventilation system, hatches and overflows are also inspected. All areas needing repair; such as holes, rust areas, pitting, interior and exterior coatings are addressed.

The one million gallon ground storage tank, located at the District Plant Facility, was the first one to receive a new coat of paint and the new lettering. The weather played havoc with getting the painting completed. The tank must remain out of service until the paint had time to cure. Maintenance staff were able to keep water flowing by manual operations, by passing the storage.

The west tank located along 68 Highway, east of Crescent Hill Road, was then taken out of service for the inspection, maintenance and painting. Patrons in the western portion of the district might have experienced low pressure while the tower was out of commission. We apologize for any inconvenience. This maintenance is mandatory to prevent major problems and expense in the future.

The District will budget for the remaining two towers: Central-at 271st & Woodland and Louisburg-at 271st and Metcalf to receive the same treatment within the next three years.



Above-West Tower, K68 & Crescent Hill Road

Left-Ground Storage Tank at the Plant

Board of Directors

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Dr. Art Godfrey-Chairman Jim Dycus Vice-Chairman Wayne Knop-Secretary Edward Kluber-Treasurer James Bracken Alan Hire Jerry Hefling Ron Flaigle Mike McClurg



A New Face And A Helping Hand

Rural Water District No. 2 would like to welcome Troy Feris to its staff. Troy is a maintenance technician working in the field and training in the water plant. He comes to the District with 11 years of experience with Rural Water Districts. He previously worked for Rural Water District No. 7, Johnson Co. KS. He holds a Class II Operators Certification in Water Treatment.

Troy and his family live on Stanton Road near Osawatomie, KS. He has three children-two girls and a boy. His hobbies are hunt- Our Com

ing and fishing.

Troy will be working on meter and line installations, leak and maintenance repairs as well as patron's requests for water related issues. He will be glad to lend a helping hand when ever he can.



A Message From The Manager-

I read an article recently in the Louisburg Herald about the progress of the newly created Public Utility Authority. The PUA is installing many miles of waterline through RWD #2 area to serve as transmission from the new water plant being built on the Marais Des Cygnes river. What disturbs me about the article was the

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placeof hyand fact that this is a first in

rural Miami County. What disturbs me even more is the reporter did not contact the water districts serving the rural areas of Miami County to verify this fact. Rural Water District No. 2 has 120 working fire hydrants. All of these are located in the rural areas of Miami County. Another interesting fact is Johnson County Rural Water District No 7 has 140 fire hydrants located in northern Miami County, about one half of their total fire hydrants within their system.

We have been fairly quiet the past years operating your district. We've had to take the City of Louisburg to task due to their lack of negotiations, as required by state statute, while they absorbed RWD #2 area. Their long range plan is to include basically one third of RWD #2 service area within the City of Louisburg. With decreased service areas come rapidly increasing water rates. We felt it was our obligation to be involved in the creation of the Public Utility Authority since all of its' infrastructure would be within RWD #2 service area. Well, we got ousted from that for a few reasons, mainly because the above mentioned service areas wouldn't be defined allowing each entity to plan for their future. There was absolutely no way to determine how each party would participate in this venture except that we could see that RWD

#2's membership would rapidly decrease as the cities expand their service areas.

There have been many articles in the newspaper with information that made us shake our heads. We didn't respond with rebuttals and have been criticized for it. Maybe we could have written editorials fighting fire with fire. Part of this is my own fault. I have always been a believer that you can't spar between entities in the newspaper. I've been in this business for close to 30 years, about half of that time working for a city. I've seen quite a few editorials and articles of public entities trying to position themselves and resolve disputes with public participation. It rapidly becomes old news and usually ends up in the coffee shop with someone spouting about recalling the city council followed up by a comment about why the city bought a new street sweeper.

As opposed to the newspaper, we can now take some liberties and jump on a bandwagon now and then. We want the patrons of RWD #2 to know what's going on. With truth comes knowledge and knowledge is a powerful thing. Yes, RWD #2 could have sold Louisburg and Paola water to get them through many years of growth. We could have done it for about one fourth of the \$30 million they are paying and much less than their projected wholesale rate of about \$4.30. Paola had enough plant

OFFICE HOURS

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Monday-Friday

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday & Sunday

Telephone Number - 913-783-4325

Fax Number - 913-783-4375

After Hours Emergency - 913-783-4325 follow the prompts.

Web Site - ruralwater2mico.com

For your convenience, after hours payments may be made online or at your own risk in the drop box at the District Office.

capacity to last another 10 years. Unfortunately for Paolans, Louisburg needed the water asap. With the formation of the PUA, the \$30 million bond issue was sold and this will cost Paola about \$1 million per year in interest to subsidize the City of Louisburg. Ok, enough of the bandwagon.

Just briefly, RWD #2 and Paola have made great strides recently with a service area agreement. It affords Paola the ability to annex into RWD #2 area and bring their water service with it. RWD #2 will be compensated fairly just as it would if RWD #2 would continue to service it. A big thank you to the staff and boards of Paola and RWD #2. Special thanks to the new Paola administration and to the excellent mediation provided by the Kansas Water Office.

RWD #2 has not raised water rates since 1985. We will try to maintain that tradition. It becomes more difficult as new treatment regulations are handed down and with the increasing cost of supplies and services. If and when your rates are increased, you will know why well in advance of it happening. We will keep you informed of your district's operations. You have a board and district staff to be proud of. You can be assured they are watching out for your best interests.

Water Conservation Tips

Do one thing each day that will save Even if water. savings are small, every drop counts!

