

**Alexandria News**

August 4, 2020

**The Not so Good News First**

We know that some of you have had a tough time financially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Since the restrictions began, we have not charged late fees or shut off anyone’s water for non-payment. The governor has lifted those restrictions as of last week, so beginning this month, if bills are received after the due date (and we do make sure we have all the bills received through that time, and usually the next business day as well, posted before late fees are applied), you will receive a 10% penalty on your next bill. Additionally, it is likely that if you are delinquent, you will receive a shut-off notice in September. If you are already committed to a payment plan, or would like to set one up to avoid shut-off, please call the Village Office at 740/924-2539 and leave a message or email Linda Propster at voa.manager@outlook.com. In order to avoid late fees and/or shut-off while on the payment plan, you must remain compliant (i.e. pay the required amount plus your current bill by the due date) every month. It would help the Village greatly to have the arrearages paid up to date as we are still operating the water system at a deficit, at least until the water project is completed. We thank you for your understanding and cooperation!

**More on the Water Project**

 The Ohio Water Development Authority (OWDA) approved the last of our loans July 30th and we are finally signing the construction agreements and preparing to start digging. Thank goodness, as we are again leaking as much water as we are using again, which in English means Granville charges us $10,000 a month for water they deliver to us, and the Village collects $6,000 from us residents for the water we actually use. Therefore, the Village budget continues to spiral down. We have repaired one leak recently that turned out to be a relatively small leak and have identified another with help from a resident. Fortunately, the end is in sight. We plan to replace the known leak first, as well as the school’s water line so that we do not interrupt a school day. School begins August 31st if you haven’t already heard. We will follow with the side streets and outside of town, saving Main Street for last. We will put up temporary traffic control lights and Main Street will be one lane for that part of the project.

I think I have mentioned before that we will be replacing each service tap. The water main generally runs under the edge of the road so we will dig a hole at the edge of the street in front of each house for the tap replacement. We will then install a meter pit in front of every house that will take the place of the meter in our basements, which will stay in the basement but not be used. These pits are about 10 inches in diameter and 3-foot-deep, (picture a tall kitchen trash can buried in the yard with the lid being level with the ground). Our hope is to place these pits all in a row so that they will be easy to locate and maintain. On Main Street they should go in the tree lawn between the road and the sidewalk. On Church and College Street where there is parking beside the sidewalk they will probably be on the resident side of the sidewalk. While they are durable, mowing over them and such isn’t a problem, however they are not made to withstand traffic. We will not be replacing saddle taps in Alex Ridge or any that have been replaced in the last 15 years. In those cases, we will just install the new meter pit. All of this information is best guess and estimates and is subject to change as

our nearly 50-year-old water system never fails to bring us new surprises and we will have to adapt as we find them.

**Customer upgrades**

Generally, the plastic water lines coming in our homes and businesses is in pretty good shape, it’s the fittings that corrode and leak. However, if you are concerned about your water line coming into your home, now is the time to replace it.

While they have a hole dug and the equipment there, it will never be cheaper to have a new line installed into your home than now. TLV has agreed to contract with any home or business owner that would like to take advantage of the opportunity. We as homeowners are responsible for that line from the meter pit to the house. Maybe to put it in perspective, unless mine is found to be leaking when they dig it up, I probably won’t have it replaced. If I had moisture in the basement where it comes through the wall or any other concern, then I probably would replace it while they are here. **However, if I owned a downtown business or apartment building** where the water line runs under concrete and asphalt, I would replace the service line into the building at this time. The hole will already be dug in the street and sidewalk, so you would only have to pay to pull a few feet of water line into your building and connect it.

 Again, unless you have your service line replaced into your basement, no one will need to come inside your home, all work will be done in the Village right-of-way. You will want to be prepared to be without water for a few hours when they get to your house. While we will take every precaution to prevent it, there is always the possibility that we might have to shut off a section of the Village water for a repair and then issue a boil alert. I would recommend everyone try to keep a 24-hour supply of drinking water on hand, just in case. As always check the website or call or email me for details or with questions.

**No news**

With the pandemic having eliminated every event and activity, there will be times when there just isn’t anything to share with you in a newsletter. So, on those occasions when I don’t have anything to say I will save a tree and some money and omit the newsletter from your water bill. We are doing a great job in our community staying healthy, but don’t let your guard down. Keep up the social distancing and hand washing. Wear a face covering when you can’t and anytime you enter a business, hopefully we can get back to “old” normal soon.

 Sincerely, Mayor Jim Jasper

voa.mayor@outlook.com

740-739-0698