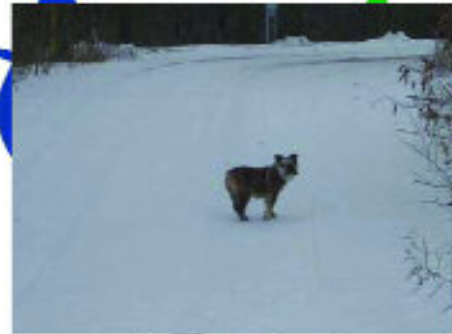




Volume VI — Spring 2010



Pictures from Around the State



Illinois Rural Water Association



Volume VI - Winter 2010

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MISSION STATEMENT

"Protecting and preserving the water and wastewater resources of Rural Illinois through education, representation and on-site

ON THE COVER is a bald eagle getting ready for flight taken along the River Road near Grafton, Illinois by Arthur Reed (submitted by Pat Gammill)

Water Ways is the official publication of the Illinois Rural Water Association, P.O. Box 49, Taylorville, Illinois 62568, and is published quarterly for distribution to members as well as other industry associations and friends. Our website is www.ilrwa.org. Articles and photographs are encouraged. Advertising and submissions should be mailed to the above address or e-mail us at ilrwadb@ilrwa.org.

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Greetings

by *Jacque Plese, District 2 Board Member*

As the newest Director to the Illinois Rural Water Association Board, I quickly found out that I would be expected to write an article for the quarterly magazine from time to time. Well I guess this must be one of those seniority things and I find myself writing for the first magazine since my election to the Board so I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

My name is Jacque Plese, and I hail from Wilmington, Illinois where I have been with the City's Water Department for eight years. Each of those eight years has offered new and many challenges and continuing educational experiences; more so than I could have ever imagined! I must say, since starting with the City, I've truly enjoyed going to work each day.

Wilmington operates a surface water treatment plant and our process employees a "Clari-Cone" lime softening system. We draw our water from the Kankakee River, which in and of itself offers daily challenges as the raw water fluctuates greatly. When I acquired my class A license in 2005 I moved from field operations to the water plant where I enjoyed the benefit of drawing from the thirty plus years of experience and knowledge that our superintendent Ken Jeffries had as a water treatment professional. Unlike some operators, Ken was more than eager to share that knowledge with me and for that I will forever be thankful and indebted to him. Thanks Ken!

Recently I was elected as the newest director on the board of the Illinois Rural Water Association representing District 2. I am looking forward to working with



everyone at IRWA and hope to be able to both contribute to and learn from the organization. My experience thus far has been nothing but a pleasure.

Thank you for this opportunity to introduce myself and I hope to get to know all of you as we move forward.

Enjoy good health and prosperity in 2010!

An advertisement for Maguire Iron, Inc. The top left shows a tall white water tower with a spherical tank on top, set against a landscape with trees. The top right features the text "Dedication and Pride" in a cursive font, followed by a paragraph about employee commitment. Below this is contact information: "P.O. Box 1446 Sioux Falls, SD 57101 605 334-9749 www.maguireiron.com". The bottom left has the Maguire Iron, Inc. logo, which includes a shield with "50th Anniversary" and "1958-2008" and the text "Three FAMILY-OWNED MAGUIRE IRON". The bottom right features a portrait of a welder wearing a hard hat and safety glasses, with the caption "Kulley Morrison 9 Years Fabrication Shop Welder".

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Support Your Local Operators

by John Bell, Wastewater Technician

As wastewater and water operators already know, the Illinois Rural Water Association's wastewater technicians and water circuit riders travel from town to town spreading good cheer and helpful information. For you operators that have come in contact with me, you might laughingly say I spread a lot of "other things" along with the useful information. It makes for a long day when I don't have the chance to share a "wild" tale or two with my fellow operators.

Well, I'm getting off the subject a bit, but not very far off. Isn't it funny how things work out in life? I needed to write an informative story and was wallowing around in my mind what might be a good topic of interest. Low and behold, while in my recent travels, Steve Edwards, Village of Waverly and Jeff Reif, City of Carrollton mentioned a topic that is very important to wastewater and water operators and to their city governments. The subject was the importance of attending the local operator's group meetings. More specific than that was the wealth of

information to be gathered from your fellow operators at these meetings.

From the start, your employer stresses the importance of being or becoming certified. You quickly realize that certification is not an easy task. You study, work and fret until your goal of certification is obtained. You finally receive the large envelope that contains your certificate. Congratulations!!! Your employer learns that you've become certified and thus satisfied the state's requirements. The city fathers are now free to move on to other tasks.

You on the other hand, have just started with the requirements of certification. You must meet the continuous state required training guidelines and the tricky, pesky, head scratching, dab-nab it requirement of operating the plant. So you look for answers. As life goes, the answers are, as they say, in your own back yard. The answers can be found with your local operators group. The local group is where those tricky, pesky, head scratching, dab-nab it operating



problems have been solved. Yip, that's right and a fellow operator is just busting at the seams to tell his "wild" tale and help you out of a tough situation. Part of my job with IRWA is to stop by and hear your story, remember it, and pass that information on down the line to help another operator with the same problem. Over a period of time you learn that part of your job is attending your local operators group and helping your fellow operator out of a tough situation.

Boys and girls isn't it wonderful how life works when all the parts come together and the team triumphs.



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Appreciating Administrative Integrity

by Don Craig, Deputy Director

For years now, I have dealt and worked with different water and wastewater administrative personnel throughout many states. The list ranges from mayors, board presidents or chairmen, general managers, clerks, treasurers, board members, trustees, councilmen, aldermen, office managers, water clerks, billing clerks, comptrollers, administrators, and on, and on.

So often, many assume that all the work running a water and/or wastewater system falls directly onto the laps of the superintendent, public works director, operator, mayor, board president, administrator, and board or council. We know... I know...this is not true. Those administrative positions ARE very important, and needed, to effectively run and manage water and/or wastewater systems. However, at times, we are all guilty of not seeing, recognizing, and appreciating an integral part of managing and administering those utilities. I'm speaking of those personnel that work in the office, whether it is a municipal building, a district facility, or even at times, out of their homes. All of these people are an important essential part and necessity of running a 'well-oiled' utility. Examples of such personnel are city or village clerks and treasurers, office managers, district secretary-treasurers, deputy clerks, billing clerks, water and sewer clerks, and administrative assistants.

They also deal directly with the pub-

lic...customers...on a routine and daily basis, through phone calls or direct contact. As such, they have to develop public relation skills, concerning water and sewer matters, which best serve the town, district, commission, company, etc....and the public. And, so often, those people are the ones that initially receive the brunt of any customers with complaints or issues on matters for the system in question. Some of these employees have served many continuous years in their positions....without proper retribution or thanks. That in itself is sad, because so often, the financial and fiscal integrity of the utility they work for relies heavily on their ability to conduct and complete their jobs in timely, efficient, and effective manners. Without their dedication, commitment, devotion to their positions and the community they serve, and to the utility...many of those systems would falter, to say the least.

So, as you can see, it's important for each of us, to not forget all of those people that play an integral and important role in managing a water or wastewater utility. And, it doesn't matter how big your facility is...its all relative. And, most importantly, it's needed for the complete and effective administration of your system. Take a moment to thank those people, personally, and take consideration in seeing that they are paid as well as possible, for the hard work they continue to do.



We, in all the state rural water associations across the nation, need to do the same, when it comes to understanding and appreciating the work our office personnel do. They too, are a VERY integral part in the success of our associations. This is not to say, that the field staff are not important...because they truly are. As the IRWA Deputy Director, I also serve as the chief staff officer. In every aspect, our field staff does a very good job in the districts they serve on a continual basis. All have different ways, attitudes, and personalities to handle the work they do...but, each are an asset to our association, and to our members. But, also, our members need to know the important and integral roles that our two administrative office personnel continue to put forth for the continued success of our organization. I'm talking about Heather McLeod and Denise Burke...both of which have been working for IRWA for several years now.

Heather has been with the IRWA since 2000, and Denise came on board three years later in 2003. Heather works in the administration as the Membership

continued on page 9

Services Assistant, handling the IRWA website, overseeing membership retention and acquisition, coordination of our annual and northern conferences, as well as other office matters.

Working as the Administrative/Programs Assistant, Denise handles financial reporting and procedures, training session notifications, NRW reporting procedures, the Technical Assistance

Bulletin newsletter, the quarterly Water Ways magazine, and other office matters as well. Both of these young ladies are a valuable asset to our organization.

So, just as I previously mentioned about water and sewer system office personnel, needing to be recognized and appreciated, in every way; it's incumbent upon myself, Frank, our board and field staff, and our membership to not hesitate

to say 'thanks', in every way we can, for the hard work these two women continue to put forth for the continued success of IRWA. And, this, I'm sure, can be passed along to state rural water associations across the nation, when it comes to their own office personnel.



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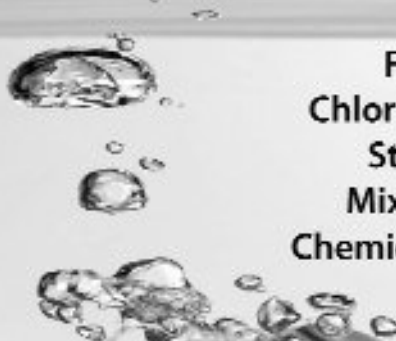
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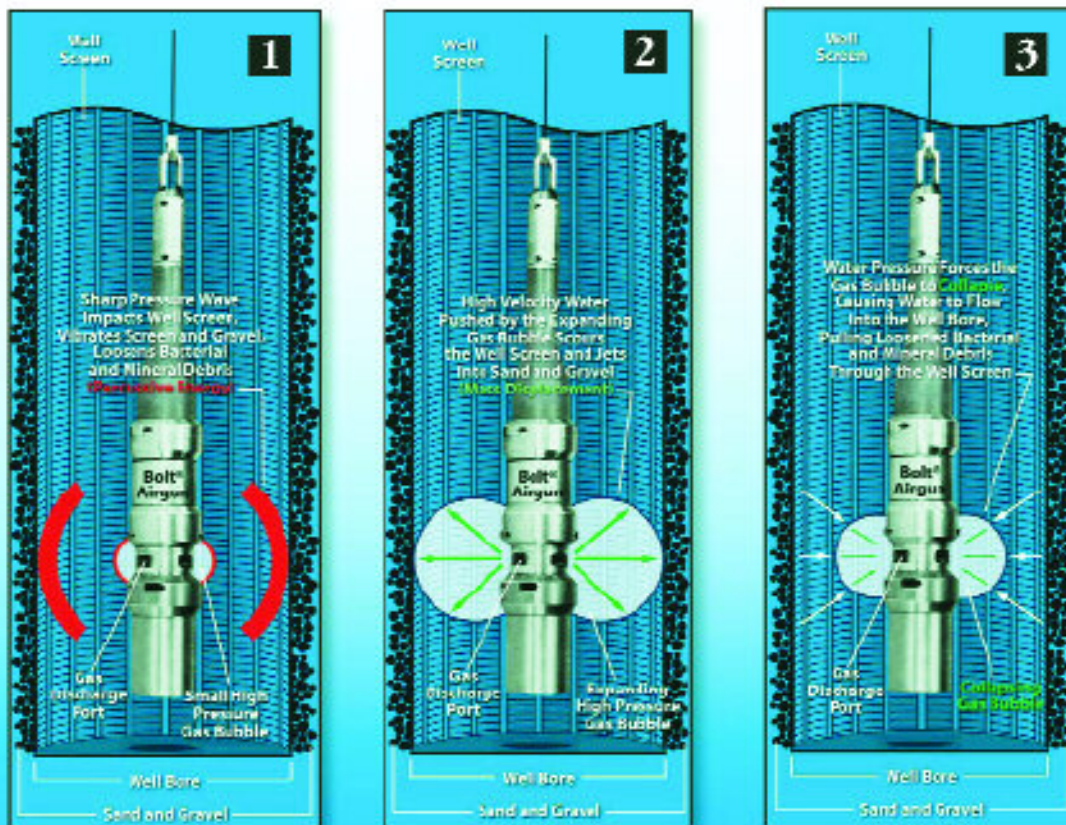


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Contending with Inflow and Infiltration

by Gary Chase,
Wastewater Technician

In 1980 the Village of Yates City constructed a new wastewater treatment facility and addressed the basement flooding problem. Past history of residents, who have experienced basement flooding during storm events or snow melting, gave the engineers and the Village thoughts of a ways to relieve the problems. Plus the new Oxidation Ditch treatment plant would not be treating rain water.

Anderson & Associates, from Canton, Illinois, was the engineering firm that designed the new treatment plant and the upgrade of the collection system

Yates City is located in Southeastern Knox County, with 700 residents and 357 sanitary sewer connections.

Randy Coulter and Dave Mahr are the



700 gal.min. storm pump

Village employees that keep all systems functioning.

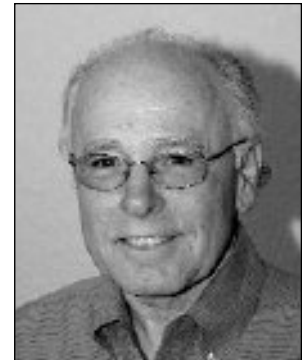
The new twin-oxidation ditch treatment plant replaces the two stabilization lagoons. These two lagoons were located in the North and South sides of the Village. The Village has a natural drainage divide. By utilizing the topography of the Village, the flow to each lagoon system was by gravity.

The location of the new treatment plant was at the Northwestern side of the Village, the site of the North stabilization lagoon. This required a lift station to pump the wastewater from the South side of the Village to the North side of the Village.

In order to accommodate the additional flow from the South side of the Village, and the inflow and infiltration flow, a 16" relief sewer was installed at the site of the gravity sewer from the North side of the Village. By installing the relief sewer after the North side flow has contributed, the additional flow would not backup the North side of the Village.

The Village officials were aware of the basement flooding problems with the exiting lagoon system. The Village and engineers decided to address the excess flow problem by utilizing the old North stabilization lagoon as an excess flow lagoon.

A bypass structure, with a flow-control shear gate valve, was constructed ahead of the Oxidation



Ditch treatment plant. This would be the only source of controlling the flow to the Oxidation Ditch plant.

The maximum daily flow to the new oxidation ditch wastewater treatment plant is 180,000 gallons per day. In order to keep the oxidation ditches from flooding out any flow over the 180,000 gallons per day flow rate would automatically flow over the bypass structure to the excess flow lagoon by gravity.

The Village purchased a used 145 Kilowatt Generator, powered by a 4020 John Deere Diesel engine to take care of all the power requirements to operate the Oxidation Ditch Treatment Plant. The engine was overhauled, but the generator did not have to be rehabilitated.

The lift station is a "tin-can" with two 250 gallons per minute influent pumps that alternate the discharge to the force main. As the influent flow increases, both influent pumps can run simultaneously. If the bubbler system senses a higher level in the wet-well, the two influent pumps will shut off and the 700 gallons per minute storm pump will energize. The 6" force main will not allow all three pumps to operate simultaneously.

continued on page 18

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Contending with Inflow and Infiltration

continued from page 16

To keep the lift station pumps operating during electrical power failures, the Village has a 60 Kilowatt Onan Generator powered by a 99 H.P. Cummings Diesel engine. This was a great investment!

The excess flow lagoon is approximately 3.5 acres and has a single point of discharge and testing parameters to meet when a discharge event occurs.

The excess flow lagoon can be returned to the head of the Oxidation Ditch plant when the main flow to the plant has receded. Due to the lower elevation of the excess flow lagoon a lift station had to be constructed to return the flow to the head of the plant, or directly to the sand filters. By pumping directly to the sand filters, the Oxidation Ditches are not overloaded. This would occur, only, if the lagoon return water could meet the excess flow standards.

An excess flow lagoon is a quick way to relieve the surcharging sanitary sewer system and basement flooding.

A lift station can be placed in a strategic location where the system is consistently surcharging, or basement flooding problems are a consistent problem when a storm event occurs, or snow melting may saturate the ground. You may also install a relief system without having to pump the water, but you still need an excess flow lagoon for storage.

This may eliminate relieving sanitary sewers by trash pumping onto the ground, or into drainage ditch.

Smoke-testing is a way to find inflow problems, but it will not find the infiltration sources. The only way to find infiltration problems is to televise the collection system when the water table is above the sewer pipe, so you can see the water infiltrating through the joints of the pipe. If problems are found in the collection system, relining, or pressure grouting the defective sections, are ways to eliminate some of the infiltration, but not a quick fix.

With the age of the existing collection systems, the inflow and infiltration problems will have to be addressed. The addition of I & I parameters on new NPDES Permits and more stringent requirements for Grant Funding may mandate the search for curing the I & I problems.

additional photos on page 19



3.5 acre excess flow lagoon



250 gal. min. L.S. Pump



Generator & Control Panel.



Discharge water depth in Excess flow lagoon



Diversion chamber at WWTP



Twin oxidation ditches

FOIA/OMA Changes Opening Some Eyes

by Wayne Nelson, EPA Training Specialist

In the Winter, 2010 issue of our magazine IRWA Executive Director Frank Dunmire's report covered some of the many changes that the Illinois legislature implemented in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) as well as the Open Meetings Act (OMA). These changes went into effect on January 1, 2010.

Since one of the missions of IRWA is to provide training opportunities covering all aspects of our industry including that of board training we have been conducting sessions around the state on both of these Acts. Our goal is to provide the opportunity for administrative and elected officials to receive the instruction needed to keep their systems' governing entities compliant with FOIA/OMA as well as providing the chance for attendees to take the required examinations while at these sessions.

I believe that some of the folks that have attended our sessions were amazed at what is required of our elected officials in the course of their statutory duties. I've been involved in government since 1972 as both an employee of systems as well as a member of several governmental boards. During my research for these sessions I learned a lot that I didn't know even after all that time.

During the course of these sessions we learned that many officials didn't know that minutes must be taken at any and all types of public meetings-the board as a whole or any part of the whole. We learned that some were unaware of the procedures for conducting closed sessions and the requirement of

having both written minutes and a verbatim audio record of the session. Many did not realize that the majority of a quorum of even a committee requires the proper posting since it meets the requirements of a public meeting.

One of our session attendees was an operator that stated that two of his three water committee members often come to the water plant to discuss water issues with him. Without proper posting at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting this constitutes a violation of the OMA since a majority of a quorum of the committee was present.

Another questioner asked the minimum age that a person could submit a FOIA request. The answer is that as long as the person is an American citizen, can provide the description of what records the request is for, provide his/her name, and the date that the request is submitted units of government must respond to the request regardless of the requester's age. Watch out for those 10 year olds!

Some were not aware that while a requester could use a form provided by the government entity the requester did not have to use it and could submit the request in a variety of ways including providing the request in writing in person, by fax, e-mail, or orally. While a unit of government may accept oral requests it can require requests be submitted only in written form. I suggest that you never take a FOIA request orally but require it in writing to avoid any misunderstanding upfront as well as any possible repercussions from the requester in



the future.

Some had questions or comments on the exemptions provided under the Acts. While all public records are just that many may be withheld in whole or in part based on possible exemptions from the Act.

We had comments from some regarding past procedures at their board meetings. Some had never taken minutes of committee meetings. Others did not record closed sessions or had ever reviewed closed session minutes for possible release to the public.

We had comments regarding the maximum fees that can be charged for copying costs of requests made under FOIA. (First 50 copies free/max. of 15 cents/copy after the first 50).

While the majority of the attendees at our sessions knew that each governmental entity is required to appoint a Freedom of Information officer no later than June 30 of this year some did not know that FOIA officers needed to complete training by that date as well as on an annual basis afterwards.

This training and exams for both the FOIA and OMA are on-line at

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www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov . When the Attorney General home page opens, just click on the Public Access Counselor site. This will take you to the training site. You will need to log in to take the course. By logging in you will be creating an account to show what training you have completed and the date of completion. Exam questions are scattered throughout the course.

The site is very user-friendly. Each course has 57 “slides”. Read each slide and proceed to the next slide. As you proceed, questions regarding the specific course that you are taking will appear. Click on what answer you feel is correct. The next slide will inform you if it was correct or not. If not, you have the opportunity of changing the answer. In addition, if you want to review the portion of the Act covering that particular question there is a drop down box showing just this information.

At the end of the course you may print your certificate for either of the FOIA or the OMA courses that you have completed.

In addition to the courses and exams on the website you can also download a lot of excellent educational material such as the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) of both Acts as well as forms that you can use in granting the actual request or the denial of the FOIA request.

While the on-line course is pretty straight-forward we will be glad to come to your system and provide assistance to you in a one-on-one situation. We will also be happy to come and meet with

your governing board to answer questions or provide training.

IF WE MEET WITH A MAJORITY OF A QUORUM OF YOUR BOARD IN ATTENDANCE PLEASE PROPERLY POST FOR A PUBLIC MEETING. It looks bad for us all if we provide training on FOIA or OMA at an illegal meeting.

If you do want assistance on the FOIA and/or OMA or just have a few questions please contact direct at 217-820-1561.

The old (before January 1, 2010) FOIA/OMA requirements were really a minor nip with no teeth. The new requirements can have quite a bite

including a provision for fines ranging from \$2500-5000 per violation of the FOIA. Violation of the OMA can include criminal penalties of up to 30 days in jail and a \$1000.00 fine. If a government entity loses in a circuit court case the entity may be responsible for the costs of the plaintiff’s legal costs. While every violation will most likely not result in the maximum penalties you should keep in mind that it is a possibility.

It is also evident that the public is utilizing the FOIA/OMA more since the first of the year. We are seeing more and more newspaper articles and media reports of governmental units being reviewed by the Public Access Counselor



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Clean Water: Worth Not Measured in Dollars

by Calvin Bryant, Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald

What's the price of one gallon of water provided by the Town of Ahoskie?

Better yet, how much would you be willing to pay to guarantee that gallon of water is safe for consumption?

The answer to both questions is exactly the same.

In the last of a two-part series, the Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald is publishing the Town of Ahoskie's response to raising the monthly fees on water and sewer services effective in July of last year. Even an adjustment in those rates, approved by the town council in August, did little to calm the critics, some of whom continue to lobby Ahoskie's leaders to lower the water/sewer rates.

In Thursday's edition, it was reported that a \$17.87 million upgrade to Ahoskie's wastewater treatment plant, a project currently underway and scheduled for completion in January of next year, will nearly double the town's wastewater capacity that, in turn, will open the door for economic growth.

Today, Ahoskie Public Works Director Kirk Rogers gives his point of view on the town's water service, one he presented on Tuesday at the monthly meeting of the Ahoskie Town Council.

Water is free; infrastructure is not

As Rogers accurately pointed out at Tuesday's council meeting, there's an abundance of water lying just below ground level. While that product is there for the taking, there are costs associated with pumping it from the earth, treating, storing and delivering clean, healthy

water to those using it on a daily basis.

Rogers stated that the Town of Ahoskie's water infrastructure includes 33 miles of distribution lines, 2,400 taps, eight wells (with ground storage tanks) and two elevated storage tanks.

Perhaps the most important part of that municipal system is the long checklist of tests performed on the water.

According to Rogers, Ahoskie's water is tested daily for chlorine residuals; monthly for coliform and fecal bacteria and quarterly/annually for over 120 contaminants. All, said Rogers, meet extremely stringent state and federal regulations.

"We are proud to serve the town's citizens and businesses with clean, potable drinking water," Rogers said. "We are also proud that our water is used for many necessities at our hospital, dialysis centers and many other businesses that require clean, safe water to serve their patients and the public. While public health is at the forefront of our existence, our water meets many demands such as these on a daily basis."

As it is with providing any type of public service, there are challenges facing the Ahoskie municipal water system. Rogers pointed to unfunded mandates, leadership changes and maintenance of an aging infrastructure, just to name a few.

"Water and sewer lines are not seen by the public and therefore are not often thought about enough to know and understand how it works and where their water is coming from," Rogers said.

Rogers said he was of the opinion "that society has become spoiled, so to speak, on the issue and many don't understand why they have to pay for water."

"I've always said that water is free," he continued. "What you're paying for is the pumping of the wells, the maintenance and repair of the distribution lines, how the pressure is constantly maintained in those lines, fire protection, treating the water – all the sampling and testing we're required to perform – and the personnel and administrative costs to maintain the entire system."

Rogers noted this was all done in an effort to, "have the peace of mind that you won't get sick and/or possibly die from drinking water from your very own faucet."

How much does it cost?

Using a gallon of water purchased from a local supermarket as a prop, Rogers asked his audience of what they thought water was worth.

"I purchased this gallon of water from Food Lion for 99 cents," Rogers said. "Now, if you took an empty one gallon jug and placed it under a water tap served by the Town of Ahoskie, that exact same amount would cost you between 1.3 cents and 1.8 cents, depending on if you are a residential or commercial customer. And that price includes the sewer costs, meaning you could pour that gallon of water down your sink and not pay any more."

He claimed that those manufacturing bottled water for retail sale were, "con-

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tinuing to rake in the money.”

“The cost of bottled water is staggering,” he noted. “This one gallon jug was 99 cents. If you want the convenience of a smaller container, a 20-ounce bottle of water will cost between \$1.50 and \$2.”

Another difference, Rogers said, is that bottled water is not regulated like water from a municipal system.

“Over 22 percent of the (bottled water) brands that have been tested had at least one sample with chemical contaminant levels above the strict state limits,” Rogers stressed. “Bacteria are prone to exist as well. Also, the bottles themselves have been found to be a health

risk due to the plastic it’s made from.”

Face-to-face with complaints

Rogers closed his presentation by commending Ahoskie’s elected leaders for standing tall in the face of adversity.

“Those who are upset with the (water/sewer) rates do not have a faceless 1-800 number to call and complain; they have confronted you with those complaints,” Rogers told the council members. “You have felt the brunt of this, but the public needs to know and understand of the underlying issues that Ahoskie and every town and city that operates a municipal water system faces day after day, year after year.”

Rogers said those issues are the same ones he had already covered... maintaining an aging system without compromising public health.

“We never need to lose sight of our responsibility to maintain our infrastructure and continue to provide safe and clean water.”

What is that worth to you?

*This article was reprinted with permission from the **Roanoke-Chowan News-Herald**, Saturday, January 16, 2010 edition)*



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The Tooth, The Whole Tooth, and Nothing But the Tooth

by Cynthia Goodman

To us adults, losing a tooth is scary. The mind cannot stay away from toothless witches, beggars, and the overwhelming dental costs. We hopefully try to protect our teeth from any kind of fall. But for kids, there is even more at stake. Three seemingly insurmountable questions are: how will the tooth come out, how will the tooth fairy get it, and how will money be received for the sacrifice of the tooth?

Our daughter Lailee had a wiggly tooth, and in every mirror, in every spare moment, she was amazed at how it wiggled. Why not, kids and movement, they are a team. The roadblock came with the apple...and the carrots...and whatever else is healthy to eat—which leaves the squishy stuff like ice cream, pudding, and jello. Lailee knew that with crunchy food swallowing whole was not the way to lose a tooth. Well, for sure, how many

adults do get “squeamish” about swallowing the potential bones in canned salmon croquettes and loafs? Then there’s peanut butter sandwiches, but you might as well go to a dentist and get it pulled, or use the string and door fable.

Days went by and fears began to mount about would the tooth really come out, or was that a joke, and will the tooth fairy really come, or was that a joke. We decided to keep both ideas in the same trench, for now.

The upcoming tooth event prompted a lot of contemplation and learning. The value of a tooth to a tooth fairy seems to have gone up these days with everything else. How does the good fairy know if that potential tooth will bring in \$1, or more? This is truly a ponderous decision to make...thinking about the succession of teeth (are there 25 or 32), and the total expenditures, or collections—whichever side you are on. We decided ahead of time to low ball at \$2.00 just to be over the cheap \$1.00 mark.

For Lailee, there was an insistence on preplanning. This was a good use of cause and effect as to how the pillow on top of the tooth will manage to protect the tooth but not prevent the fairy from finding it and leaving the treasure. Lailee decided, ahead of time, that she will provide a clean pillow case-- so the fairy will smile, a nightlight-- so there will be no mistaking as to who lost the tooth, and a gift beside the bed of (not candy or cookies) a wind up toy to make sure the fairy will be in a good mood for giving.

One day Lailee came home with a gap and a wail. The tooth was a goner. It bounced onto the playground at recess and now there was no evidence for the fairy. This was a tragedy...but as the sunny day provided a beam of light streaming through the glass door, and revealing an orange seed on the floor--a bit battered by the cats--miraculously, we knew we had a good tooth substitute. It will work, it will be fine, and we tried to convince her—to no avail.

Our luck, and to her credit, Lailee decided a last resort was to write a note to explain herself to the tooth fairy, and leave it under the pillow. Later during the night we retrieved the note that said: Dear Tooth Fairy. I am sorry this is a seed. My friend Justin knocked out my tooth at recess, and I couldn’t find it. Please leave the money.

With that we had to leave her a calling card back, complete with picture, which read, “Hey Lailee, no Sweat, saw it all happen and we’re cool” T.F. and \$7.00—one for each year of her precious candor. It always pays to be honest.

About The Author

Cynthia Goodman is a seasoned educator, counselor, writer and artist. Although she holds a Master’s Degree in Education and Counseling, she finds the most amazing and complex education is the one she receives everyday from her relationships. She writes for this kid-friendly website at <http://www.familyfuncartoons.com>.

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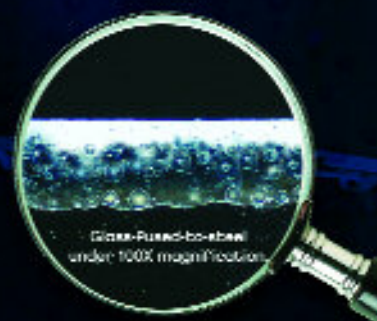
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