



April 2010

Newsletter

TODD CREEK VILLAGE  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT  
Smart Water Homes

# VOICE OF THE VILLAGE

## In This Issue

Need to update...

### Spring is on its way

That means that as of April 1st the Irrigation water will be ready for seasonal use. As with every spring season, temperatures warm up and plants will start blooming. REMINDER: The District has a dual-pipe system, which means the potable water is water that is used in the home and the non-potable water (irrigation) is for the watering of any and all landscaping during the months of April through October.

### February Average Bill

Average amount of water used in a home in Todd Creek Village during the month of February was 4,000 gallons. The average water bill during that time was \$50.

## Our Community Needs Your Help!

Todd Creek Village prides itself in having an active and involved community. By doing so, residents work with Board members to help ensure decisions are made in the community's best interest. At this time, there are only three (3) more individual opportunities to join the Citizen Community. You will review community issues and provide input to help guide future decisions like the Fair Water Rates study. If interested, please email your resume to [customers@toddcreekvillage.org](mailto:customers@toddcreekvillage.org) or drop it by our office with a cover letter stating your interest, how long you've lived in Todd Creek Village, phone number, and any other relevant information no later than May 1st. The Board will review all applications and contact individuals selected directly.

## Meet the newest District Board member...

### Your Neighbor Kathy Kropp

Kathy and her family have lived in Eagle Shadow South for two years. She is currently on the board of the Homeowner's Association as well as the board of the Todd Creek Master HOA. Kathy works for Xcel Energy, a public utility company that provides electric and gas utility service in Colorado and in eight other states. She has many years of experience and understanding in how rate base and cost of service information is prepared, analyzed and addressed for the purpose of setting fair rates for consumers. Over the past few years, her work has focused on ensuring the financial information filed in rate cases is accurate, reasonable and properly reflects the actual cost of service provided.



## Citizens Help Guide Fair Water Rates

As most of you know, the District, along with our active Citizen Task Force Members (your neighbors) worked on an independent water rate study (2008) to help guide fair and appropriate water rates assessing the current and future needs of our community. The study was based on customer records and statistical models. Basically they all came to the conclusion that the rate increases would be best if they were spread out over five years, rather than hit its residents for a large increase all at once (like in other districts).

(This information is provided as a guide to help you understand general water consumption amounts.)

## Keep Your Water Meter Clean

While the maintenance of the water meter is performed by TCVMMD, it is your responsibility to keep the meter Radio Frequency box free of cover and accessible.

Please do not restrict its frequency by covering the meter with debris or other objects. Contact us if you suspect you are having an issue with the meter, but never try to fix it yourself. Just like with any public service in any neighborhood, tampering with the meter is illegal. Please know that the meters will indicate any tampering when checked.

## Know What's Going On

There are two good reasons to make sure we have a way to communicate with you. The first is for any emergencies regarding your water. The second is because the district is going green and would like to keep costs down (email newsletter rather than printing it) while keeping you updated and informed about your water, your district, and what's going on in the area.

So, if you haven't already, please provide us with your email address. In the event of a water related issue (such as a line break or water pressure), a Water Notification Email Alert will be sent to YOU. Please be assured of your complete privacy. This information is solely for communication purposes with you.

## Visit Our Reverse Osmosis Treatment Plant!

Small groups (4-6 people at a time) will be fascinated to see how this highly sophisticated water treatment process works. Email: customers@toddcreekvillage.org and put "RO visit" in subject line to schedule a tour. Tours are done on Fridays between the hours of 2-4.

## TODD CREEK VILLAGE, Smart Water Homes!

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303-637-0344  
Fax 303-637-0423

General Questions:  
customers@toddcreekvillage.org

The first of five of the incremental increases (fully posted on the District's website; click on Water Rate Schedules) went into effect last year. In a nutshell, the potable (drinking water inside the home) base rate will go up \$4 and the irrigation base rate will increase by \$2 for the first 10,000 gallons used. You can review the rate structure schedule on our website. Thank you to all the residents for their participation and cooperation in helping to keep Todd Creek Village's water rates fair, while ensuring the value of our homes.

The last couple of years have been challenging for all of us. Utilities such as water services are no exception. But, with the help of your neighbors, an independent rate study, the District Board, a dedicated staff, and an efficient dual-pipe water system you will see only the nominal increase on your 2010 bills that were proposed back in 2008.

That's because here in Todd Creek Village, the dual-pipe system helps us minimize the cost of delivering water. The system inherently greatly reduces the amount of water that needs to be treated for indoor vs. outdoor use. Therefore, the rate increases for the area can be spread out over the next five years (approved by residents and the Board at the 2008 public hearing) and are expected to cover the current and future water needs.

## How Do You Rate?

During the month of February 2010, the average home in Todd Creek Village used four thousand gallons of water. Check it out. Know where you fit into the average. It could mean a leak. Yes, if you feel that your water use is higher than you expect, maybe you have a leak. That's why we provide the numbers. It is not unusual for a toilet to waste hundreds of gallons and the homeowner to see a higher water bill than expected. I know. I've had it happen to me.

Or maybe your numbers are below the average. Good for you. We can all learn something from your efforts. So if you have water conservation tips you would like to share with your neighbors; drop us a line. We will post any helpful hints or water conservation tips to the TCVMMD website.

## Is Bottled Water Better Than Tap? Americans Are Spending Billions on a Drink That's Virtually Free

By JOHN STOSSEL

It started with Perrier. Somehow, a French company convinced people it's cool to buy bottled water. Today, Evian has surpassed Perrier in sales and now it's the chic French water of choice. Why? It costs about 5 bucks a gallon! Why do people pay so much for something they can get virtually free? If they're not buying Evian, they buy Aquafina and Dasani and the dozens of new brands that are jumping into this billion-dollar business, including bizarre ones like Venus, the Water for Women, and Trump Ice, with "The Donald" scowling on the label. I'd have to be very thirsty to buy that.



Many people say they buy bottled waters because they taste better. We spoke with people in New York City, asking them why they liked bottled better than tap water. "I drink Dasani. It tastes good, it tastes crisp, like -- natural," one girl said. "I think tap water kind of tastes like sewer," said another. People also say they drink bottled water because they believe it's safer than tap water.

One man told me he's the only one "who's brave enough" to drink tap water at home. His family's afraid to drink tap water because of germs, he said. At recent Earth Day celebrations, a lot of people told us they believe tap water is unhealthy. "As a parent I feel more comfortable giving her bottled water," one father told us. Bottled water, we were told, is cleaner, safer, healthier. Watching bottled water ads, you'd think that tap water might not be healthy.

But it's not true. "20/20" took five bottles of national brands of bottled water and a sample of tap water from a drinking fountain in the middle of New York City and sent them to microbiologist Aaron Margolin of the University of New Hampshire to test for bacteria that can make you sick, like e. coli.

"There was actually no difference between the New York City tap water and the bottled waters that we evaluated," he said. Many scientists have run tests like that and have consistently found that tap water is as good for you as bottled waters that cost 500