

CHEROKEE CHANNEL

VOLUME 3

EDITION 3

FALL 2008

EDITION FEATURES
 2009 BUDGET OUTLOOK
 BILLING MAKEOVER
 ATTEND A BOARD MEETING —
 SEE PAGE 2 FOR DATES & TIMES

A Groundbreaking Day

Building the Future

The District has taken yet another step in providing solutions to our water challenges. On Friday, June 27, 2008, we broke ground on our new, state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility.

With a target completion date of March 2010, the facility located at the northeast corner of Drennan and Milne Road will replace our existing wastewater lagoon system located south of Highway 24 at Peterson Road. The need for a new plant stems from more stringent State and Federal wastewater discharge requirements, which our current facility cannot meet. Not only will this facility address the new guidelines, but it will also tackle our most critical issue – water.



From left: Board Members, Steve Hasbrouck, Andy Anderson, Ted Schubert, Gayle Jones, Robert Lovato and Cherokee General Manager, Kip Petersen, broke ground on the site of Cherokee's new Wastewater Treatment Facility on June 27, 2008.

Now you're probably thinking – how does a wastewater plant help our water situation? Stay tuned to future editions of the *Channel* to find out.

At a cost of \$30 million, the overall cost to construct the facility will be defrayed through an agreement with the Meridian Service Metropolitan District. Meridian will become a bulk user of the facility and cover 45.8% of the construction costs, while Cherokee will subsidize the remaining 54.2%. This agreement will allow Cherokee to retain ownership and act as the facility's operator.

Look for project updates in future editions of the *Cherokee Channel* or log on to cherokeemetro.org to learn more about the facility.

watering schedule

**Stage 2
through October 31, 2008**

Odd Addresses	Even Addresses
Tue/Sat	Wed/Sun

Maximum of 2 hours
 Before 9 a.m. After 6 p.m.
 Trees, Flowers, Shrubs, Gardens: Any Day
 Before 9 a.m. After 6 p.m.
 Car Washing: Any Day/Anytime

**Winter Stage
begins November 1, 2008**

Odd Addresses	Even Addresses
1 st /3 rd Sat/Month	1 st /3 rd Sun/Month

Maximum of 2 hours
 Between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Above 40°F
 Trees, Flowers, Shrubs, Gardens: Any Day
 Between 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Car Washing: Any Day/Anytime

Project Update

Cherokee Ridge Golf Course Well

The Cherokee Ridge Golf Course is one step closer to a completely non-potable irrigation system. Currently, the course's new well is fully operational and pumping 130-140 gallons per minute. At this rate, the well can produce a day's worth of irrigation water through two days of pumping.

controlling costs

The Meridian partnership has reduced the overall cost of the facilities to you – the customer.

	With Partnership	No Partnership
Cherokee Share	54.2%	100%
Wastewater Facility/ Recharge Basin Cost	\$16.26 million	\$30 million

No block scheduling, no waiting – spot-on appointments. Just another way Cherokee is there for you!

2009 Budget Outlook

A Balanced Approach

Everywhere you look prices are on the rise. A struggling economy and increased fuel costs mean we are all feeling the crunch and looking for ways to adjust, Cherokee is no exception. And as we prepare our 2009 budget we have to consider how rising costs will impact the way we do business.

The past two years we have avoided water rate increases by using a portion of our emergency reserve to fund the purchase of additional water resources, as the Board did not want to pass along these costs to you.

It is also important to remember, as a governmental organization with a zero-profit margin, our only objective is to cover the operational expenses needed to provide water, wastewater and street light services.

Current economic factors have required us to re-evaluate our costs and make adjustments to ensure quality services.

We encourage you to sit in with the Board as they discuss the 2009 budget. Our preliminary budget was submitted October 14th and the final budget will be adopted on December 9th.

board meeting dates

5:30 p.m. @
6250 Palmer Park Blvd

November 11, 2008
December 9, 2008

Extreme Makeover

Billing Edition

You probably noticed a new and improved look to your monthly water bill. That's because we recently upgraded our billing system.

The system will offer you a variety of new features, including:

- **Messages** – More space for important service-related updates and information
- **Description of Charges** – Detailed breakdown of **all** charges/fees
- **Water Consumption Chart** – Monitor your water usage habits and identify potential problems such as leaks
- **Payment Summary** – Now you'll know how much and the date of your last payment
- **General Information** – Find office hours, payment options and rate information on the back of your statement
- **Going Green with Blue** – Tired of folding your payment stub to fit into small payment envelopes? We've ordered new size-matched envelopes, but we wanted to use and recycle our supply of small envelopes rather than throw them away
- **Online Payments** (*not currently available*) – We are working to identify online payment options and will notify you as soon as this feature becomes available
- **New Account Numbers** – If you currently use a bill pay program, be sure to update your account number to ensure timely and accurate payment processing

Cherokee Metropolitan District
6250 Palmer Park Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80915-1721
Office: (719) 597-5000 • Fax: (719) 597-0145
WEB Site: cherokeemetro.org

Billing Date: [] Account Number: []
Due Date: [] Full Amount Due: []

Message:

Description	Summary

Meter Reading Information

For an explanation of consumption see meter sale.
Please do not alter for your records.
To ensure proper credit checks and meter this stub and payment.

Make checks payable to: Cherokee Metropolitan District

Billing Date: [] Account Number: []
Due Date: [] Full Amount Due: []
Account Paid: []

Rate to:
Cherokee Metropolitan District
6250 Palmer Park Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80915-1721

CHEROKEE METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

For Customer Service call:
(719) 597-5000
Office Location:
6250 Palmer Park Blvd
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

WEB Site Address:
cherokeemetro.org
Please check our WEB site for updated information regarding water conservation and other valuable information.

Business Hours:
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday
(719) 597-5000
For Emergencies After Hours Call:
(719) 597-5000
Our Answering Service will contact our On-Call Personnel

Units of Consumption:
Cherokee bills in 100 cubic foot increments.
1 unit = 7.48 gallons = 100 cubic feet

Cherokee Metropolitan District Maintains the Following:
Water
Wastewater
Street Lights
Golf Course
Parks

Payments:
At this time, Cherokee accepts payments in cash, check, money order, and credit cards: VISA, MasterCard and Discover Card

For your convenience, a drive-up courtesy payment box is located on the west side of our office building located at 6250 Palmer Park Blvd.
Please do not deposit cash in payment box.
Payments are "tagged"!
Call 811 for the Utility Notification Center of Colorado (UNC)

Residential Rates:
Water Rate:
Unit 5 - \$ 1.53 Per unit
Unit 10 - \$ 1.91 Per unit
Unit 15 - \$ 2.87 Per unit
Unit 20 - \$ 4.28 Per unit
Service Charge: \$ 20.00
Street Light: \$ 1.20
Availability Charge*: \$ 0.21

*Availability Charge is a monthly charge to cover a portion of the fixed expenses that are incurred each month regardless of the amount of water you use.

For commercial and irrigation rates, see our WEB site

PLEASE RETURN THIS STUB WITH YOUR PAYMENT



What's an Availability Charge and is it new? It is the monthly charge to cover a portion of the fixed expenses incurred each month regardless of the amount of water you use and has been included with your monthly service fees since 1995. Prior to the billing system upgrade, it was included in your water charge.

Water Returns

Water-Wise Landscaping Made Easy

Join the Water Returns extended community to receive e-newsletters with valuable water-wise landscaping information. You'll also be the first to know about future training opportunities. So what are you waiting for! Visit cherokeemetro.org and look for the Water Returns logo.

