



CHEROKEE CHANNEL



June - 2004

THE CHEROKEE CHANNEL IS BACK!

Warmer weather is here and we are getting several phone calls about the watering restrictions for this summer. Currently, there are no watering restrictions for residential or businesses located within the Cherokee Metropolitan District. We are asking however, that you please do not waste water by letting it run down sidewalks or by watering on windy days. The best time to water is early in the mornings (before 9 am) and later in the evenings (after 6pm).

We are currently replacing water meters in the older residential areas with new ERT's (Electronic Radio Transmission) meters. These new meters use radio frequency allowing us to read meters faster and with better accuracy. If you receive a meter replacement notice on your door please call us right away to make an appointment. Installation usually takes less than 20 minutes. Once installed, most meter readings will be done from inside our vehicles. Metal obstructions placed in front of the ERT meter can cause interference. Please don't place any metal objects near the transmitter.

CHEROKEE RIDGE GOLF COURSE

We are happy to announce the opening of the renovation project. For those of you who don't know, we completely re-vamped the driving range, putting green and chipping green in hopes of continuing to strive for excellence in the golf community.

We would also like to inform all of you who are looking for a golf league to join, we have a Senior Men's league Wednesday mornings, a Ladies league Tuesday mornings, and we will be starting junior lessons this month. Please call 597-2637 if you have any questions.

ELECTION RESULTS

The following results are from the May 2004 election for the Board of Directors for the Cherokee Metropolitan District:

David Hacker and Robert Lovato

Congratulations to both of them and thanks to everyone who voted.

PARKS

A great deal has been going on at the parks in our District. New playground equipment was installed at Cimarron Eastridge Park in July of 2002 and at Fredricksburg Park in July of 2003. Trees are also in the budget for the Fredricksburg Park and will be installed later this year.

The pavilion at Cimarron Eastridge Park is available to rent for a \$25 fee. This fee includes the use of the pavilion, bathrooms and electricity. A refundable damage deposit is required.

The ball diamond at Cimarron Eastridge Park is also available for rent at \$5/hr. Bathrooms are not included in this fee.

Call us for more information and to check availability for your special event at 597-5080.

SMOKE SIGNALS

Hello from Cimarron Hills Fire Department. Welcome to spring. Hope that with the recent rains that your lawns and gardens are coming back well from the winter. As a reminder, while you're out doing routine yard work, please take a few minutes and clear any weeds from around the fire hydrant and trim back any bushes or tree limbs that might be hiding it. Remember, if we need it for your home we don't want to waste time having to look for it and cut our way into it. That open access is a big plus in the event of an emergency.

We are in the process of training a new group of firefighters to help serve the community. If you see us out on the streets training, be careful around the trucks and tools. We do our best to be safe but need your help too. Our training does include water use and we do our best to minimize the amount we flow for training. We can't learn to fight fire without flowing a little water.

The Fire District wants to thank those of you that voted May 4th. Our Chairperson, Robert Lovato was re-elected and Marcia Maroon was added, replacing Dave Hacker who provided outstanding direction for the district during his tenure.

NEW WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IN THE WORKS

Changes are in store for the Cherokee Metropolitan District's form of wastewater treatment. The District's current aerated lagoon system is located south of Highways 24/94 and west of Peterson Road. The facility has a surface water discharge that is directed to the East Fork of Sand Creek. The Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Water Quality Control Division's stream standards have continued to become more stringent. As a result, the District's most recent permit renewal contains a compliance schedule that calls for enhanced levels of treatment. Given the nature of the District's existing facility and the forthcoming treatment requirements, a wholesale change in the treatment process is required. Given that requirement together with the magnitude of urbanization that has occurred around the lagoon's ponds, the ongoing concerns expressed by both the Air Force and the Colorado Springs Airport for potential waterfowl conflicts with aircraft. A need to make better use of the substantial amount of water resources being lost to the District as a result of the current discharge to Sand Creek, the District is undertaking measures to construct a new wastewater treatment plant at a different location.

As many of you may know, the District is currently providing wastewater treatment service to the Schriever Air Force Base by means of an interconnecting 14-inch pipeline. The pipeline was made operational in January of this year. The line has been sized such that Cherokee can reverse the flow in the main and pump its untreated wastewater to the east. A quarter section of undeveloped property located north of Drennan Road and immediately east of Milne Road has been secured by the District for the construction of a new mechanical wastewater treatment facility. The District's compliance schedule established by the Health Department has been modified to reflect the fact that the District will build a new facility at the new site. The new facility will: provide for significantly enhanced levels of treatment; eliminate the incompatibility of the current facility with the urbanized area; eliminate concerns over potential waterfowl conflicts; set the stage for the District to be able to effectively capitalize on the water resources currently being lost.

To make the project as cost effective as possible, Cherokee has entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Meridian Metropolitan District whereby Meridian will be a bulk wastewater user at the new treatment facility. Meridian is required to pay their proportional share in both capital construction and operational costs thereby achieving economy of scale and lowering overall costs to both parties.

Plans are also in the making for recapturing the treated surface water flow downstream of the plant and transferring it to an area within the Upper Black Squirrel Creek Basin. At that location it will be allowed to naturally infiltrate through the underlying sands and gravels and ultimately recharge the alluvial aquifer. This approach will allow the District to take advantage of not only the natural treatment that will occur as a result of the water migrating through the sands and gravels, but will also replenish the alluvial aquifer itself. This move is viewed as a crucial step to ensuring the long term viability of the Black Squirrel aquifer.

Planning for the wastewater treatment facility and interconnecting pipeline is in progress at this time. Further updates will be provided to you as the project evolves. Once overall costs have been sufficiently refined, forthcoming potential impacts to monthly wastewater user charges and tap fees will be defined and that information provided to you. This is an exciting time for Cherokee and its constituents as our overall water resources program takes treatment to a much higher level and we position ourselves to effectively utilize our most valuable resource, water. If you have any specific questions that you would like to discuss with the District staff, please feel free to call of the office.

