

# FRUITLAND MUTUAL WATER COMPAY FALL NEWSLETTER



 American Water Works Association  
Pacific Northwest Section

fruitlandwater.com

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.fruitlandwater.com](http://www.fruitlandwater.com)

There is information on local assistance agencies who can help with utility payments during this hard time.

For information and applications on tenant/landlord relief for rent and utilities through Pierce County Human Services & City of Tacoma, go to:

<https://www.piercecountywa.gov/7142/Rental-Assistance>

## TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FRUITLAND MUTUAL WATER COMPANY:

Each year, Fruitland Mutual Water Co. members elect several Board of Directors from a slate of candidates. The nominees may be new or existing Board Members seeking re-election. If you would like to serve on the board of Fruitland Mutual Water Co., or have a candidate to nominate, please send the candidate's name to our office.

Eligible candidates must be members of the Fruitland Mutual Water Co. in order to qualify for consideration. Prior to submitting a nomination, it is required for the candidate's permission be granted, along with the signature of two additional Fruitland members for validation. Please include a brief biography and qualifications of the nominee. In order for the preparation of the ballot, please submit your nominations as early as possible. Proposals for bylaw changes can be received for review by the Board of Directors. Proposed changes must be accompanied by signatures of at least two members. All nominations and proposals must be received at the company office (4001 9<sup>th</sup> St SW) no later than **4:30pm on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022.**

## COVID-19 Information

As you are aware, COVID-19 is having a major impact on all aspects of American life. This is true at the personal, school, business, and professional levels. On the public water supply side, we would like to clearly identify that there is NO indication that COVID-19 can be transmitted via a public water system. In the unlikely event that the virus was even present in the water system, it would be killed within a few minutes of contact with the chlorine used to treat and protect the water you receive.

Even though the water you receive is safe from COVID-19, this pandemic has triggered Fruitland Water Company's emergency response plan. As we implement our plan, you will notice that public access to the office is not permitted for the protection of both the public and employees.



In order of safety priority, payments may be made by automatic payments via bank account or credit/debit cards, online at [fruitlandwater.com/paymybill.html](http://fruitlandwater.com/paymybill.html), debit/credit card payments over phone, mail payments to PO Box 73759 Puyallup, WA 98373, or drop payments in our drop box outside our office.

*The spread of COVID-19 will challenge the way we all live our lives for the foreseeable future. If we each take reasonable precautions, we can slow the spread of the virus and give our health care system time and facilities to aid those in need. Throughout this pandemic, as always, we work to provide you with a safe, reliable water supply.*

*Stay safe.*

## WINTER IS COMING!

As cold weather sets in, take a few precautions to winterize your home. When we begin to have sustained temperatures of 30° F. or lower, homeowners should be alert to the possibility of freezing pipes. Here are a few tips to avoid freezing pipes this winter:

- Disconnect and drain outdoor hoses and sprinkler lines
- Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas like garages, attics, crawlspaces, etc.
- Seal off access doors, air vents, and cracks
- In extremely cold weather, consider leaving a trickle of water running
- Open cabinet doors to circulate warm air
- Know where your master shut-off is in case of an emergency
- Keep your thermostat set to at least 55° F., even if you are not home



## NEW ADDITIONS TO FRUITLAND WATER:

- Berger Short Plat located at Woodland Ave & 125<sup>th</sup> St E
- Jordan Ridge located at 80<sup>th</sup> Ave & 115<sup>th</sup> St E
- La Quinta Inn coming soon located at 39<sup>th</sup> Ave & 9<sup>th</sup> St SW
- Berggren's Landing at 112<sup>th</sup> St & Woodland Ave

## A WORD FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER:

Dear Members,

COVID-19 continues to persist and have a huge impact on all of us in one way or another. Here at the water company all staff is working full time and in person at their respective workstations, be it in the office or in the field. COVID precautions are taken indoors to include the closure of the office, masking indoors when not in your specific workstation, sign in and temperature checks each workday, and distancing.

Please be aware if you are behind on your water utility bill, the company will be going back to regular business the first of November. This will include phone notices, late charges, and disconnections. To avoid disconnections due to circumstances caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, it is up to the customer to research assistance programs if you are eligible for them. Be aware that the programs I have seen so far require the household to be 150% of the poverty level to qualify. If you don't or don't think you qualify, please contact the office, or check the company's website for payment options. Please make this a priority. If we don't hear from you and the water utility bill is behind, disconnections will become necessary and full payment will be needed to return service.

### Frozen Pipe Facts

37%

The amount of all frozen pipe failures that occur in a basement. Source: IBHS

Frozen pipes are one of the biggest risks of property damage when the temperature drops.

 \$5,000	 .50 Cents	 32 Degrees
A frozen pipe can lead to pipes bursting, and result in more than \$5,000 in water damage. Source: IBHS	Pipe insulation can cost as little as .50 per linear foot, which can help prevent your pipes from freezing. Check your local hardware store.	Freezing point for water. It's important to keep your home above this temperature.

More Information

Additional freezing weather guidance can be found at [DisasterSafety.org/Freezing\\_Weather](https://DisasterSafety.org/Freezing_Weather)



**Ted Hardiman, General Manager**