

# Fruitland Mutual Water Company



Spring 2025 Newsletter



## Water Quality Improvements & Other Work

Fruitland Water is continuing ongoing maintenance and infrastructure upgrades. You may notice our field crew performing various tasks to improve water delivery to your homes and businesses. We make every effort to contact affected customers in advance. However, during emergencies, time constraints may prevent prior notification. Our goal is always to complete projects with minimal service disruption.

We are developing a schedule for galvanized line replacements on the company's side of the meter. We will update customers once the schedule is finalized and work begins. Please contact our office with any questions.

Our field crew is performing system-wide maintenance, including meter clearing, fire hydrant maintenance, and valve exercising. If you have concerns about specific vegetation on your prop-



Ted Hardiman, General Manager, in front of our main office.

erty, please inform us so we can be aware before our crew arrives. You may occasionally see crew members flushing water mains throughout the system, which causes water to flow and drain. This is a normal part of maintaining clean water mains.

Unfortunately, leaks do occur throughout our service area, and we rely on our customers to report suspected leaks. To report a leak, please call our office or email us at:

[customerservice@fruitlandwater.com](mailto:customerservice@fruitlandwater.com)

We will dispatch a water technician to investigate.



## New Billing Changes

There has been a notable increase in monthly shutoffs for delinquent accounts. Company records show that while rental properties represent only 11% of residential connections, they account for 46% of delinquencies leading to water meter shutoffs.

The company's by-laws, specifically Article X, Section 5, have always been clear the member is ultimately responsible for the water bill. Considering the current situation, the Board of Directors has decided to terminate the provision that allows a second party, with the members' written consent, to receive the bill from Fruitland Water.

This adjustment will be phased in over the next three years, starting April 1, 2025. As new tenants move in to existing or new rentals during this period, they will not be able to receive a water bill. At the end of the three-year transition period, on March 1, 2028, as per Article X Section 5 the member is the responsible party for payment to the company.

If you require assistance with billing information, please contact the office at 253-848-5519.

## FMWC's New Additions & Work:

- Fruitland Heights (10700 Fruitland Ave)
- Fruitwood Overlook (87 block Fruitland Ave)
- Bradley Heights Apartments (27th & Meridian)
- Infrastructure replacement—80th Ave E/ 113th to 128th

## SPRING IS COMING!

### One Inch Per Week

Typically, in the South Hill area, one inch per week can maintain a healthy lawn.

Consider these tips when getting ready for the hot months ahead:

- Set your irrigation to timers so you only water when needed.
- Inspect irrigation lines for damage to prevent summer leaks and high water bills.
- Water in the early morning or late evening to limit water loss due to evaporation
- Water root areas of your plants; watering the sidewalks, gutters, or street wastes water.
- Water only as rapidly as the soil can absorb the water.
- Place a layer of mulch around plants and trees to avoid excess evaporation.
- A good watering method is to water on an odd/even rotation (ex: If your address ends in an odd number water on odd numbered days)

## Spring 2025 Newsletter

### *Annual Meeting and Elections*

Thank you the members who took the time to come to the 2025 Annual Meeting. The next annual meeting is February 19, 2026.

Congratulations to the board members who were reelected:

Scott Duda (President)

Jeff Bingaman (Director)

Kelly Pugh (Director)



### *Square Footage Fees*

Membership entitles you to receive water service from the Fruitland Mutual Water Company. The membership fee applies to the first 2,000 square feet of enclosed, roofed, or covered area of structures on your property. Any area above 2,000 square feet or additional structures on the same property will be subjected to the \$2.50 per square foot assessment. If a building permit is required, the permit will provide the square footage on which the assessment will be based. The square footage policy has been in effect since 1983 and is set forth in the bylaws of the Fruitland Mutual Water Company. If you have questions or would like a copy of the bylaws, please feel free to call the office or visit our website.

### *Cross Connection Control*

Remember that modifying or adding connections to your private water lines may require the installation of a backflow assembly. Examples include sprinkler systems, fire suppression systems, pools, hot tubs, or decorative ponds directly connected to your private water line. If you have any questions about which plumbing changes require a backflow assembly, please contact our office, and the company's backflow program manager will assist you.

## A word from our General Manager



Henry, FMWC's Favorite Assistant.

Dear Members,

As we prepare for the warmer months, we encourage all customers to inspect their irrigation lines for damage that may have occurred during the off-season. Proactive checks can help prevent high water bills caused by summer irrigation leaks.

In 2024, our team completed 1,001 work orders, encompassing a wide range of system tasks, from meter box repairs to final meter readings. We are also continuing hydrant, valve, and leak maintenance. Furthermore, The company has implemented a program to ensure each fire hydrant is checked for proper operation at least every three years.

As we look forward to the remainder of 2025, Fruitland Water is committed to maintaining our momentum. We will continue to prioritize infrastructure replacement, ensuring a secure and reliable water supply for all our members. Our water rights and ability to meet the demands for both domestic use and fire protection remain strong, providing a solid foundation for future growth under current regulations.

Thank you,

Ted Hardiman