

WaterSource

Volume 9 Issue 1

A Newsletter to the Customers of Bella Vista Water Company

National Drinking Water Week Approaching. Rate Case Hearing Scheduled.

BY JUDY GIGNAC

Inside this Issue!

In this issue, we'll continue our series *Groundwater Protection Begins At Home* and discuss the proper handling, storage and disposal of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Plus, we'll give you something to think about the next time you grab your garden hose.

Also included are the latest water usage numbers...are thanks and congratulations due all around? Why don't you take a quick look and see how we're all doing!

Earth Day events generally take place around April 22. National Drinking Water Week follows soon after, taking place from May 5 through 11. We think both of these conservation efforts are very important to all of us, and are pleased to be able to give you a "heads up" for their upcoming dates. There are also a couple of web sites we recommend taking a look at:

National Drought Mitigation Center at www.drought.unl.edu
Niagara Conservation at www.niagaraconservation.com

Both should provide you with some information that will be helpful to your understanding of water issues around the country, as well as provide you with conservation awareness specials if you are interested.

As you can see from this newsletter, our customers have been doing a wonderful job of conserving water (See page 3). Hopefully, this information will help you continue that practice.

Status of our Rate Case

In our last newsletter we made you aware of our pending rate case with the Arizona Corporation Commission. You should also have received a letter and notification of the application, as well as the date and time of the hearing.

To refresh your memory, the Commission has scheduled the hearing for July 25, 2002 at 10am at the Commission hearing room in Tucson. The address is 400 W. Congress Street, Room 222. It is possible that the hearing could be moved to Sierra Vista. We'll keep you advised on that.

As we have done in the past, we are holding a Customer's Night to provide you the opportunity to learn more about the rate case and to voice your opinions. Customer Night will be held:

Wednesday, May 15, 2002
7:00pm
Windemere Hotel
State Highway 92

**The Commission has
scheduled our rate case
hearing for July 25, 2002 at
the Commission hearing
room, 400 W. Congress St.,
Room 222, in Tucson.**

We sincerely hope you can attend and look forward to seeing you there!

GROUNDWATER PROTECTION... BEGINS AT HOME!

Part 4: Fertilizers and Pesticides

In many places around your home right now, you probably have any number of common household items that contain hazardous and/or toxic substances. When these common items are disposed of improperly, they can cause serious damage to our groundwater supply. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that the average American disposes of approximately one pound of such waste each year!

You wouldn't think that fertilizers could pose a hazard to our water supply, but many chemical fertilizers contain large amounts of phosphorus and nitrogen that, when used improperly, can leach into the ground and enter the aquifer. Excessive nitrogen - or phosphorus - in our ground water can prove a hazard.

Whenever possible, use a safer alternative, like organic compost material instead of chemical fertilizers.

Extra care must be taken when using, storing or disposing of chemical pesticides as well. Remember, many contain hazardous chemicals designed to kill insects and rodents. Some are also harmful to humans and pets. Exposure to such chemicals can result in both immediate and long-term health effects.

Contact the Cochise County Solid Waste Transfer Station at 452-9805 for more information on how to properly dispose of hazardous waste.

Next Issue:
Kitchen and Bath Products.

Caution!

Your hose could be hazardous to your health!

A man sprays commercial weed killer on his lawn using a garden hose attachment. After he finishes, he disconnects the applicator. It is a hot day, so he takes a refreshing drink of water from the hose.

A short time later he dies of arsenic poisoning.

What happened?

At some time while the man was spraying weed killer, water pressure dropped, which resulted in the poison being sucked back into the hose. Later, when he drank from the hose, the poison inside was released with the water. The man unknowingly poisoned himself.

Protect yourself and your family! Know the danger!

When water flows backward through the water supply system it's called "backsiphonage" or "backflow." When that water is accidentally mixed with hazardous chemicals or bacteria, it's called "dangerous!"

The danger comes when the hose - any hose - is connected to harmful substance. If the pressure in a water main drops while your hose is connected to a chemical sprayer of some kind (or submerged in a bucket or tub), hazardous chemicals or polluted water could be sucked back into your hose, your pipes, your drinking water supply. Water pressure drops are not uncommon. They can happen for a variety of reasons and you can't always tell when they've happened.

Be extra careful when you're using chemicals to fertilize your grass or treat your landscaping for weeds or insects. Here are some tips to help you keep your drinking water, yourself and your family safe:

Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, tubs, or sinks.

Always keep the end of the hose clear of possible contaminants.

Do not use spray attachments without a backflow prevention device. The chemicals you spray can be toxic and harmful or fatal if ingested.

Do buy and install inexpensive backflow prevention devices for all threaded faucets around your home.

Water Proverb!

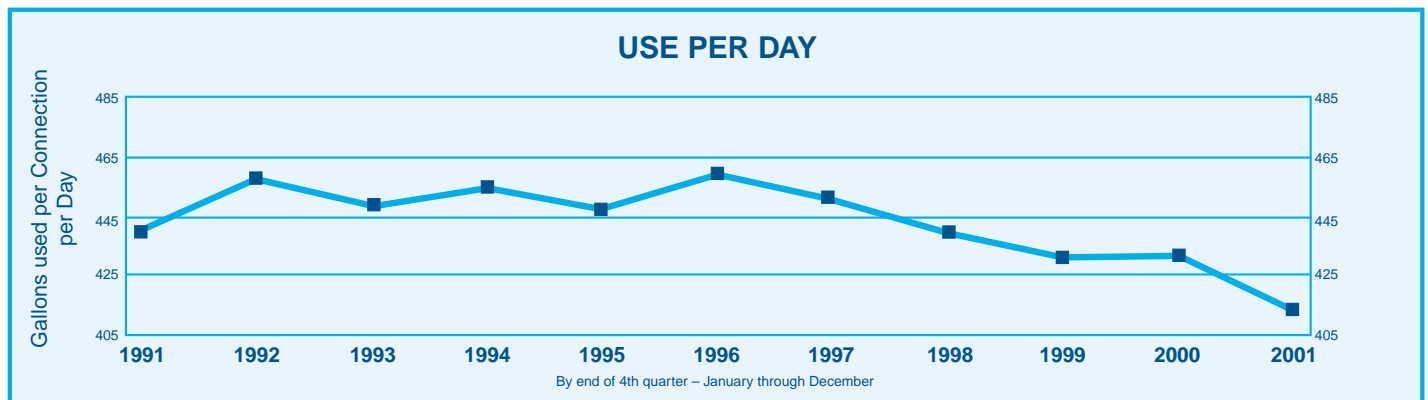
No snowflake ever falls in the wrong place.

(Zen Proverb)

Water Usage Per Connection!

The final water usage numbers for last year are in, and guess what? Once again, you all need to be congratulated!

The chart below shows our average annual gallons of water used per connection per day for the past 10 years. As you can easily see, from 1996 on, you have all done a remarkable job in reducing your water usage and helping us save our most valuable natural resource. It should be noted that when we say “average water usage per connection,” we mean **all our connections**. These numbers include residential, commercial, industrial and educational customers. You have all done a magnificent job! Let’s keep up the great work!



The numbers below show the average number of gallons used per day per connection for the last 10 years.

1992 - 459	1993 - 449	1994 - 452	1995 - 448	1996 - 458
1997 - 451	1998 - 441	1999 - 430	2000 - 432	and for 2001...414

On our web site there is a far more complete breakdown of water usage for all our customers. It shows which months have heaviest water usage and which months of the year water usage is lightest. It also shows total gallons per month per year for the last 11 years. Visit our web site soon. You’ll find the information we’ve provided there very interesting.

For more complete information on water usage, as well as important updates and status reports on current facilities upgrading projects, take a moment and visit our web site at www.bellavistawater.com

Customer Night is Coming!

Don't forget! Customer Night is scheduled for:
Wednesday, May 15, 2002
7:00pm

Windemere Hotel on State Highway 92

Please join us! We look forward to seeing you there!

In our next issue...

Part Four of our series...

Protecting our Groundwater Begins at Home: "Kitchen and Bath Products"

Water-Saving Tips and Tricks

Did you know...?

DID YOU KNOW?

- ... that Sam Collins, a Texas pipeline builder, was the first individual to extract diamonds on a commercial scale from the seabeds of South Africa's "Forbidden Coast"?
- ... that early missionaries ended the 1,000-year-old sport of surfing when they arrived on Oahu and Maui in 1821? The sport was not revived until after World War 2, when it was recognized as a major asset to the islands' tourist economy.
- ... that the word "hurricane" comes from the Spanish?

This newsletter is offered as a service to our customers. If you have any questions or comments about any of the material in this issue, or ideas or suggestions for future issues, we'd love to hear from you. Please address them to:

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