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Monthly Update:

August was another relatively quiet month for CWA. This is overall good news because that means our system is running smoothly, without any concerns, but it does make for a boring update.

We had our contractors come out and complete the annual testing of the Cross Connection Control/Backflow Devices (CCC). Of the 1180 hook ups we have in our system, 609 properties have a CCC installed. Those 609 were tested and any that failed were immediately repaired or replaced. If you are interested in reading more about our CCC program, please read [here](#). We are nearly caught up on all the outstanding CCC/Backflow devices that need installing.

During our August board meeting, the board welcomed two new board members; Mike Koontz and Jim Pearson. Both are excited to learn more about our water system and how they can help continue to steer CWA to the future while still emphasizing CWA being member focused.

As we enter into September, be on the lookout for the next billing! As a reminder, billing is on the "odd" months and is always processed within the first couple of days of the billing month.

-CWA Staff



Rumor Has It...

There have been a lot of talk on social media about concerns with the aquifer, our water association, neighboring water associations, and more. Some of it has been civil, a lot has come across seemingly aggressive; regardless the intention, we're here to set some records straight.

Why have metered water when we all share the bill at the end of the day?

This is straight misinformation for CWA. We meter because you only pay for the water *YOU* use. If you only use 500 gallons, then you pay \$8 for water (plus the base fee). If you use 30,000 gallons, you pay \$480 in water alone. Many other systems may split the bill or have a tiered system where you pay a flat fee for a range of consumption, but CWA has found that rate structure doesn't encourage conservation as much as the way we've set up our rates.

What's with the water hardness?

Yes, the water is hard on the island. This is an island wide issue; not just something CWA is experiencing. Here's the long and short about hard water- it's perfectly safe to use and consume. Does it leave calcium build up on appliances? Yes. Can it be unsightly? Also, yes. But it is not harmful to swallow, bathe in, wash clothes in, or water your garden with according to the Department of Health. If you are worried about aesthetic things, then we encourage you to install a water softening system. It will reduce the buildup on your appliances and could extend the life of some appliances. Do note that water softeners use more water than one may think. This means that your water bill could increase if you install a whole home system.

What are we doing about conservation on the island?

As stated above, our rate structure is built to encourage responsible water use by charging per 100 gallons; the more water a member uses, the more they pay. If a member does not want a higher bill, they will be more mindful of their consumption. But conservation is an island wide effort as the aquifer is not an infinite source of water. Here is a easily digestible read about the [Island County's aquifer](#)

Check out our FAQ section on the website for more useful information!

CWA Reminders



Become a Board Member

Board Meetings Day and time have Changed!

The Board meets at **9:00 a.m. on the third Thursday** of each month at the CWA office. Curious how decisions get made or whether board service might be a good fit? Sit in on a meeting — it's the best way to see the work firsthand.

Serving on CWA's nonprofit board is a meaningful way to support your community. Trustees help guide long-term planning, ensure financial responsibility, uphold our mission of safe, reliable water, and keep member voices at the center of major decisions. It's a collaborative environment where diverse perspectives truly matter.

Have questions or want to learn more? Contact the CWA office at (360) 387-9136 or info@camanowater.com. We're always glad to help community members get involved.

Tips on Conserving Water

A little water-wise magic goes a long way. As summer stretches on, our community can keep things flowing smoothly with a few simple habits that make a big difference.

Think of it as everyday conservation: watering lawns in the cool morning or evening, fixing those sneaky drips, choosing plants that thrive without constant sprinkling, and giving hoses a break when rain does the job for free. Even small changes add up across the neighborhood, helping protect our shared supply while keeping our homes and gardens looking great.

Thanks for doing your part to keep our system strong all season long.



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A Few Notes To Remember

- Email is the best way to communicate with us! Phone calls are great too but for quick responses, email is the way to go.
- If you ever are wondering if we received your payment, you can verify on your **Customer Portal**.
- Our website, www.camanowater.com has lots of updates and information. It is recommended to check it often!
- Remember we are made up of mostly your neighbors, so please be kind!



What You Get For Your Buck

Here at CWA, we are aware that the cost of living has increased dramatically over the last few years. We understand that everything is costly and it is easy to complain about utilities being outrageous. We know our water rates are more expensive than some of our neighboring systems, however it is designed that way to help encourage conservation, something we were advised to do by the Department of Health and Department of Ecology.

For comparison, let's compare some costs:

A 16oz bottle of water from the gas station is around \$2.19. With CWA, you pay \$1.60 for 100 gallons of water. If you were to buy enough water bottles to get 100 gallons, you would pay \$1,752. (800-16oz bottles would equate to 100 gallons of water. See visual to the right).

If you have ever come into the office, you may have notice the big, blue barrell in the corner of the lobby. That barrell is 100-gallon size. It is a helpful visual of how much you get for \$1.60.

A standard shower head will use about 17.5 gallons of water during a 7-minute shower with a 2 gallons per minute rate; based on this with our billing rates, that means you can get about 6 showers for \$1.60.

To find out how many 16 oz water bottles make 100 gallons, first note that 1 gallon equals 128 fluid ounces. Therefore, 100 gallons equals:

$$100 \text{ gallons} = 100 \times 128 \text{ oz} = 12800 \text{ oz}$$

Next, divide the total ounces by the size of each bottle:

$$\text{Number of bottles} = \frac{12800 \text{ oz}}{16 \text{ oz/bottle}} = 800 \text{ bottles}$$

Thus, 800 bottles of 16 oz water will make 100 gallons ☺ ☺ .

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