

Lake Josephine Riviera Water Winter 2017 Update

Greetings from Russ Rodocker and

The Lake Josephine Riviera Water Department, I want to take this opportunity to recap a few questions that came up at the Riviera Community Club annual meeting held in late September.

First and foremost I'd like to address the question about the cost for water associated with unimproved lots. We as owners need to understand that the main cost of operating a water system is associated to fire flow. The added water towers and larger mains are but a few items that raise the cost. These items would be present regardless of any homes being built. That very system is what protects not only the entire Riviera but all club structures and parks. This cost is spread to the entire membership through the current rate structure. Any member that adds a home to their property are not only charged that base price, but are also charged for usage in a tier rate structure. A base rate of \$17.17 per month above unimproved lot cost allows them 7,480 gallons of water per month. Should they use more than this allotment, the cost continues to climb per gallon thereafter. These costs are what cover additional power, chemical and other costs associated with providing them with water service to their property. After careful review of last year's numbers, it became obvious that the lots with a home were covering the brunt of the base cost which leads to a \$0.833 per month increase to vacant lots. To sum it up, vacant lots now pay \$18.75 per month, and lots with a home pay \$35.92 per month, plus any usage above 7,480 gallons.

Next, I would like to address non-revenue water. This is water that is lost due to leaks in the water system. Lake Josephine Riviera Water has been working diligently on seeking out and repairing these leaks. This year we will be hiring an outside firm to do a complete leak detection survey on our system. Once that is complete we will begin the repair process on any leaks found. This is done with specialized equipment that is very expensive, which is the reason behind contracting this out.

The last topic I would like to address is our water mains. Conversations have come up regarding the condition of our water mains. I want to assure you there are no major issues as far as the mains are concerned. In our current plan we are scheduled to start the replacement of water mains in 2030, with the exception of our two-inch PVC lines and a few of areas in the Riviera that need better fire flow, which will be addressed sooner. Many of the mains that have been replaced over the years have been due to lack of fire flow. The primary areas we tend to see failures are in the service lines from the mains to the property corner of the consumers. These particular one-inch lines were made of a material that was recalled in the 1970's. These are the lines where we have been doing most of our repairs. Anytime we replace a main, we replace all service lines as well. The other item in the system that we have seen some failures on are old valves. Due to these older valves not being used, the packing in the bonnet can start leaking. Currently the water department cycles every valve open and closed annually, to help to ensure the valves stay in good working order.

In closing, I want to thank all of you for your patience on the necessary changes we have made to our billing process for water overages. After making some adjustments to the rate structure I believe we have found a solution that is fair and equitable for all of us. Lastly, conservation is key and is a very important part of insuring that we have great quality and adequate quantities of drinking water well in to the future.

Sincerely,
Russ Rodocker
Lake Josephine Riviera Water Manager