

# news on tap...

**Introducing** the new City of Buckeye Water Resources Information newsletter.

This newsletter will be included periodically in your bills and be available online at [www.buckeyeaz.gov](http://www.buckeyeaz.gov) for your viewing.



We will include important information, water conservation tips, billing information, links to water related websites, important dates, and much more.

**Many different kinds of water leaks can cause unnecessary spikes in your utility bills. Here are several ways to avoid those unwelcome usage totals.**

**T**hey can be silent or invisible, but unidentified water leaks are the most common cause of unexpected increases in residential water consumption. It can be frustrating to get the unwanted surprise of that larger than normal utility bill, even though it may accurately reflect water usage.

In each issue of this newsletter, we will address some issues, their causes and some suggested solutions.

In order, the most common causes customers find are:

- Underground leaks in your outdoor irrigation system. You can have a leak underground that does not produce enough flow to reach the surface every time your sprinkler system is used. Solution? Checking your meter before and after watering over an extended time period can help identify a leak.
- Toilet leaks are the second most often cause of excess usage because you may not see or hear the leak. Solution? The easiest way to check for a toilet leak is to remove the lid from the tank of your toilet and put a few drops of food coloring in the tank. If after five minutes there is color in the bowl you have a leak. You might try this while you sleep or at work during the day to check for leaks.
- Water softeners recirculating improperly or excessively.
- Overwatering landscape, watering by hand, malfunctioning sprinkler timer.
- Pool leaks, evaporation.
- Faucet or miscellaneous plumbing leaks.

## Join the Water Education Team!

Be a part of the Water Education Team (WET) to provide citizen input and learn where we get our water from, how its treated, where it goes, what it costs to provide the service, and how rates are established.

Please contact Gail House at 623-349-6103 for more information or how to apply.



## Crews in neighborhoods to upgrade Buckeye's meter-reading system

Crews from Metering Services Inc. have started working in neighborhoods throughout Buckeye upgrading the city's meter-reading systems to allow for remote data collection.

The new wireless system will allow reading of individual residential meters multiple times each day, not only allowing customers to review their water usage 24/7, said Dave Nigh, department director, but also by individual time segments during the 24-hour cycle.

"Customers will also be able to request an email notification if they have excessive usage in a specific time, which will allow them to identify any leak before receiving a bill," Nigh said.

The upgrading by MSI work crews, who will be identified by not only their uniforms, truck designations but also City of Buckeye logos and badges, will take approximately seven months or so, Nigh added.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Water Resources Department is looking for community members who would like to volunteer time helping the department using the skills you already have!

Days and times are very flexible and can include office work, answering phones, promoting conservation to schools and the community, data collection and data entry, light field work and maintenance such as verifying field data, painting hydrants.

Please contact Gail House at 623-349-6103 for more information or how to apply.



# Hydro Savings

Buckeye Could Save Millions of Dollars With New Agreement to Purchase Electricity From the Arizona Power Authority Hoover Dam's Generation

The City of Buckeye could save as much as \$4 million in electricity expenses over the next several decades as a result of an agreement that will provide the city some power generated at Hoover Dam.

Buckeye Water Resources Director Dave Nigh said the 50-year agreement with the Arizona Power Authority (APA) approved by the Buckeye City Council earlier this year will save an estimated \$80,000 a year in electricity costs.

"This allocation of 670 kilowatts of electricity, enough to power about 133 homes for a year, will be used to power one of our higher-capacity wells," Nigh said. "In addition to the cost savings, Hoover power is hydroelectric power, which is a clean and renewable source of electric power."

During the first few years of the agreement, APA will add some start-up costs which will increase the cost of the power allotment somewhat, "but the rates will still be cheaper than the electric power the city currently uses," Nigh added.

Some 20 cities in Arizona currently purchase power from Hoover Dam electrical generation, including Avondale, Peoria and Glendale in the west Valley. If any of the current groups drop their allocations, Nigh said, the city would be able to purchase 10 percent more Hoover power through the agreement.

The Water Resources Department's current electricity bill to power the city's 38 wells and water treatment facilities and four wastewater treatment plants is approximately \$2 million a year.

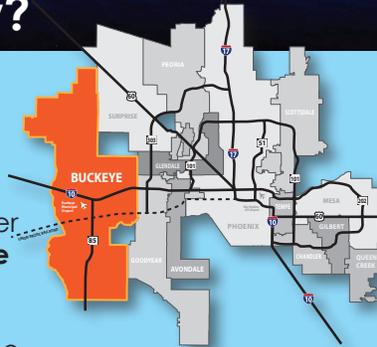
*"In addition to the cost savings, Hoover power is hydroelectric power, which is a clean and renewable source of electric power."*

*Water Resources Director  
Dave Nigh*



## Did you know?

The city of Buckeye planning area is over **675 square miles?**



**100%** of the water served to our customers comes from groundwater wells.

We currently operate:

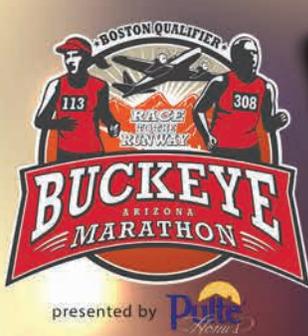
- 29 Potable wells
- 400 miles of water pipes
- 15+ million gallons of storage
- 4 Water Reclamation Facilities to treat wastewater
- 300+ miles of sewer lines

### Important Phone Numbers

- Billing / Payments  
**623.349.6100**
- Report an emergency during business hours  
**623.349.6800**
- After hours emergencies  
**623.349.6400**
- Other Water Questions not related to billing  
**623.349.6800**



**DON'T MISS THIS EXCITING CITY EVENT**



**DEC. 10 2016 THIRD ANNUAL BUCKEYE MARATHON**



**MARATHON • 1/2 MARATHON • 10K • 5K • OBSTACLE COURSE/FUN RUN**

**Sign up today at [www.buckeyemarathon.com](http://www.buckeyemarathon.com)**