



# District News

December 2015

## District Board of Directors

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## A Look at Our Water Supply

We all know that water is essential to life, and that the homes and businesses in our area wouldn't exist without adequate supplies of clean water. Most of Trophy Club's water comes from Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), one of the largest raw water suppliers in Texas. TRWD serves the water needs of nearly 2 million people across 11 counties by operating the reservoirs and infrastructure needed to deliver raw water to wholesale customers (like the City of Fort Worth) who then treat the water and sell it to retail customers and other water systems like Trophy Club Municipal Utility District No. 1.

Lake Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain Lake were built from 1929 to 1932 to serve the water needs of the greater Fort Worth area. Since the 1950's demand has far exceeded that supply. Today most of our water comes from East Texas. Cedar Creek Reservoir and Richland-Chambers Reservoir were constructed during the 1960's and 1980's. The pipelines from these lakes run 80-90 miles to bring water to cities along the way like Arlington and Fort

Worth. Along their routes the pipelines also add water to Lake Benbrook and Eagle Mountain Lake.

Recently District staff went along on a routine patrol of a portion of the infrastructure needed to meet our area's water needs. TRWD's helicopter staff normally flies the route twice a week to watch for any encroachment on the pipeline easement that could damage the pipes and interrupt the water supply.

*Story continued on next page*



**Cedar Creek Reservoir Intake Station and Dam**

## Water Conservation Student Art Contest

Middle school and high school students who reside in or attend school in Trophy Club are invited to participate in the Trophy Club Municipal Utility District No. 1 "Saving Water at Home" Art Contest. The winning design will be used as the coloring page for the Kids Water Fest Coloring Contest next spring.

To enter students should create a simple, kid-friendly black and white drawing depicting one or more positive ways for residents to save water at home. Artwork must be an original design and

submitted on 8 1/2 x 11 inch white paper. All entries must be received at the front desk of the Svore Municipal Building at 100 Municipal Drive in Trophy Club by Wednesday, January 13th at 4:00 pm.

The winner will be presented with a 124-piece sketching and drawing art set at the Board meeting on Tuesday, January 19th. All entries may be displayed in the lobby of the Svore Municipal Building. For contest rules and forms please visit [www.tcmud.org/administratio/events](http://www.tcmud.org/administratio/events).

### Coming Next Month

**A Look at Fort Worth Water's treatment and distribution system**

### Save the Date for Spring Events

**Saturday, April 2nd—Water Fest 2016 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**Saturday, May 14th—Sprinkler System Quick Fixes and Sprinkler Operations, a Texas A&M AgriLife class from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

Visit our Events page for details.

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## A Look at Our Water Supply, continued

They can also pinpoint leaks and other problems, and can land the helicopter anywhere to check out a project or bring help to an area. Since the pipeline crosses private yards, fields, highways, creeks, and other obstacles, patrolling these roughly 200 miles on the ground would take more time, staff and vehicles and they still wouldn't be able to see everything. It was amazing to see the pipelines, pumping stations, balancing reservoirs, and other facilities involved in delivering the water that we use every day.

Operating and maintaining this infrastructure is an enormous task, and one that comes with a hefty price tag. Other than debt service, electricity is the single highest expense in TRWD's \$142 million annual water budget. When the smaller western lakes get less rain, TRWD has to supplement by pumping water from the eastern lakes to replenish needed water supplies. During the last drought, TRWD ran the high capacity pumps continuously for 24 months to bring enough water to Eagle Mountain Lake. This required a great deal of energy and was very expensive and taxing on the infrastructure.

Wayne Owen, Planning Director, stated that the greatest challenge that TRWD has faced in the last 10 years is communicating effectively with consumers. As part of their response to this challenge, TRWD, along with Dallas Water Utilities, developed the very successful Lawn Whisperer campaign. Conservation as a water supply strategy is so important because water that's already available to us is the least expensive water; other efforts to add larger pipelines or additional reservoirs are far more expensive. Mr. Owen said that the public responded very well during the drought, saving millions of gallons of water.

Mr. Owen predicted that the greatest challenge for the next 10

years will be continuing to emphasize water conservation while striving to develop additional raw water supplies and delivery systems. As the population continues to grow, the current infrastructure will soon be inadequate to supply our water needs. To deliver more water from the existing reservoirs, TRWD has partnered with Dallas Water Utilities on the Integrated Pipeline (IPL), a 30-year, \$2.3 billion joint project.



Work in progress on the IPL. Crews laying the 108 inch steel pipes.

When finished, the IPL will run 150 miles, bringing water from Lake Palestine to Dallas, and from the Cedar Creek and Richland-Chambers reservoirs to the Fort Worth area and out to Lake Benbrook. The middle part of the pipeline is being constructed first, and a portion is expected to be ready to provide the additional capacity needed by 2018. From the air we were able to see crews laying the 108 inch diameter steel pipes, tunneling under roads and creeks, and building the facilities necessary to bring the water to our area.

The rate TRWD charges for raw water has increased from \$0.80 to \$1.19 per 1,000 gallons over the last few years, which is due predominantly to the increase in debt service for this new delivery system. Raw water rates are expected to continue to increase, but Mr. Owen predicts that they will only go up about \$0.20 per 1,000 over the next 3-5 years. The other water providers that serve the DFW area

have also experienced increased costs and have raised their rates.

TRWD works with other water providers through Region C, statewide associations, and the North Central Texas Council of Governments. Region C Regional Planning Group is one of 16 regional water planning groups established by the Texas Water Development Board and is tasked with coming up with water supply plans for citizens, communities and industries over a 50-year planning horizon. Region C is currently developing a water plan that includes population and water demand projections, available water supplies, recommended water management strategies and more. Region C anticipates that 24% of the future demand for water will be met through conservation.

The useful life of a reservoir is hundreds of years, depending on the rate of siltation, or the fine solids that accumulate in the lake. Mr. Owen stated that Lake Bridgeport and Eagle Mountain Lake are both impacted by silt but still offer robust storage, and state permits still allow TRWD to divert water to use for supply. At some point, planning will show the need to expedite the development of additional supplies and there will be a need for TRWD to construct new water reservoirs to meet demands. Developing a reservoir is extremely challenging due to environmental issues. It takes about 30 years to get a new reservoir going from the planning, land acquisition, design, construction, and filling to the point of delivery. Fortunately through diligent planning, conservation and construction efforts, TRWD is working to ensure an adequate water supply for our future.

Many thanks to Jeff Dalton and Wayne Owen with TRWD for their time and hospitality! For links to more pictures, videos, and other resources, please visit us at [www.tcmud.org/get-to-know-your-water](http://www.tcmud.org/get-to-know-your-water).