



Sample Bill Process Saving Water and Money

Thanks in large part to the City's sample billing for residential water meter customers, 14 major residential water leaks have been repaired by homeowners in the past three months (April-June 2010), saving more than one million gallons of water each month. The savings is significant as the summer months get underway, when water use spikes in part due to increased use.

Residential sample bills showing water usage for Phase I metered residences were sent out to 3,297 property owners in April and May. Sample bills showing high monthly charges have helped residents to identify leaks before metered consumption charges take effect in November.

The City Water Conservation Program staff compiles data and graphs of metered water usage to help determine where leaks are occurring. These efforts may be followed by site visits to help property owners troubleshoot sources of water waste. Leaks are typically caused by corroded pipes, running toilets and water softeners, and irrigation systems.

The June Woodland Water News, which was sent with utility bills, highlighted the cost of water waste. For example, a constantly running toilet for example can waste up to 100,000 gallons of water per month (the equivalent of 2,000 bathtubs full of water) and would cost a Woodland resident an additional charge of \$159 per month on his/her water bill.

The August utility billing will include a brochure on leak detection to aid in identifying common household leaks, both indoors and outdoors. Both the June Woodland Water News and the Leak Detection brochure will soon be available on the City of Woodland website at www.cityofwoodland.org.

The City's Water Conservation web page includes general lawn watering guidelines as well as landscaping tips and information on rain barrels. For information on water conservation or to report water waste, visit www.cityofwoodland.org/waterconservation, e-mail conserewater@cityofwoodland.org, or call (530) 406-5117.