

March 2023
Issue 35

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Office Hours:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed 12 - 1 p.m.

Drive-Thru Window:
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Time to Apply for Aqua Scholarship Program

Applications are now being accepted for the annual Ernest W. Bracewell, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Program. The Aqua scholarship application and guidelines can be obtained through Aqua's website, www.aquawsc.com, or from the business office located at 415 Old Austin Highway in Bastrop.

The application deadline is May 18, 2023, and scholarships will be awarded by August of this year.

Cooperative members of Aqua and immediate family members are eligible to apply for a scholarship, provided they meet the following qualifications:

- ✓ Applicant must be a member of Aqua or an immediate family member residing in the same household as the member
- ✓ Aqua member account must be current
- ✓ Applicant must maintain a grade point average of 2.5 or higher

Completed application forms must be submitted by May 18, 2023, along with proof of GPA, two letters of recommendation, and a personal essay for review by the Aqua scholarship committee.

✓ Applicant must be enrolled as a full-time student by an accredited business/trade or college institution. Funding will be considered for pursuit of a Masters or Post Graduate Degree.

Aqua adopted an educational scholarship program in 2007 to provide a little extra help to customers with family members seeking higher education.

Each selected applicant receives a scholarship in the amount of \$3,000; receiving half the first semester upon proof of enrollment in an accredited course of study, and half in the second semester, provided the minimum GPA requirements are met.

Good luck to all our scholarship applicants!



Aqua Water Supply Annual Membership Meeting

A reminder that the annual membership meeting for Aqua Water Supply Corporation will be held Friday, March 31, 2023, at the Elgin VFW Hall located at 118 Sayers Road in Elgin, Texas. Registration will begin at 1:00 p.m. and the meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m.

Annual reports will be given by the President and Treasurer, and elections will be held for Directors

representing Zones 1, 6, and 7. The President’s report will summarize 2022 activities and provide an outlook for 2023 key projects and capital investments.

All members who attend the annual meeting will be eligible for door prizes. The door prize drawing will be held at the end of the meeting.

We hope to see you there!



DETECT AND CHASE DOWN LEAKS



Did You Know

that easy-to-fix water leaks account for nearly 1 trillion gallons of water wasted each year in U.S. homes? In fact, the average household leaks nearly 10,000 gallons of water per year, or the amount of water it takes to wash 300 loads of laundry, and could be costing you an extra 10 percent on your water bills.

In just 10 minutes, you can search your home for leaks and crack down on water waste. Many common household leaks are quick to find and easy to fix. Worn toilet flappers, dripping faucets, and leaking showerheads all are easily correctable and can save on your utility bill expenses and water in your community.

So put on your detective hat, lace up your running shoes, and take this 10-minute challenge to detect and chase down leaks!

www.epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week



Start by Gathering Clues

These clues can help you detect leaks before you even start investigating your home.

- 1

Check Your Utility Bill

A place to start is to examine your utility bill for January or February. It’s likely that a family of four has a serious leak problem if its winter water use exceeds 12,000 gallons (or 16 CCF) per month. You can also look for spikes—is your water use a lot higher this month than it was last month? Learn more about your water bill: www.epa.gov/watersense/understanding-your-water-bill.
- 2

Read Your Water Meter

Find your water meter, which is usually near the curb in front of your home but can be inside your home (e.g., in the basement) in cold climates. Use a screwdriver to remove the lid on your meter, which is heavy and usually marked “water.”

Now that you’ve found the meter, take a reading during a period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same after two hours, you probably have a leak. Here’s a tip on how to read a water meter: www.smarthomewaterguide.org/how-to-read-your-water-meter.
- 3

Take a Toilet Test

Put a few drops of food coloring into the tank at the back of your toilet and let it sit for 10 minutes. If color shows up in the bowl, you have a leak. Make sure to flush afterward to avoid staining, and consider replacing your old toilet flapper if it is torn or worn. Check our Fix a Leak web page for handy videos that show you how to do it.

***Please Note:** The Aqua Water Supply newsletter is published 4 times per year. To submit Community Announcements for publication in an upcoming quarterly issue, please send your news in writing to the main Aqua office or via email to info@aquawsc.com by the fifth day of January, April, July or October.

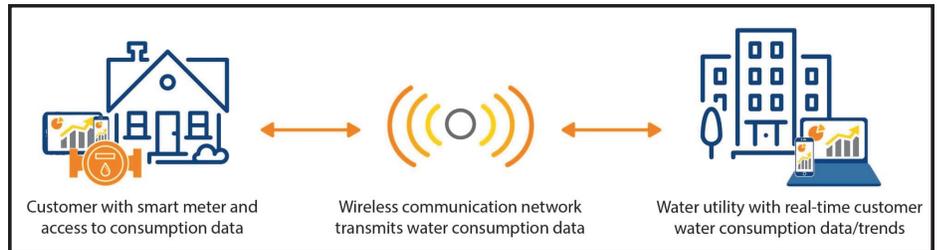
How to Get Smart About Water Usage

More and more these days it seems like our devices are getting increasingly smarter. Modern technology has brought us smartphones, smart TVs, smart thermostats, and even smart lightbulbs! The rationale behind these innovations is that we can use technology to work smarter, not harder. Well, that's the theory, at least.

But sometimes, smart devices can actually make a real difference for us and our future. For example, a smart technology called Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) was developed to improve water management for greater efficiency and conservation. At Aqua Water Supply, we are always interested in how new technologies can be used to save time, money and water, so we are exploring the possibility of implementing AMI throughout our service area.

AMI is an integrated system that combines a water meter with advanced sensors and wireless communications technology to create a 'smart meter' which allows water usage data to be remotely monitored and collected in real-time. The smart meter can communicate data to the water utility as well as to customers.

With the capability to collect and transmit real-time water usage data, smart water meters have been shown to reduce water loss and to promote water conservation, compared to traditional meters that require manual data collection. This technology would



What is AMI technology?

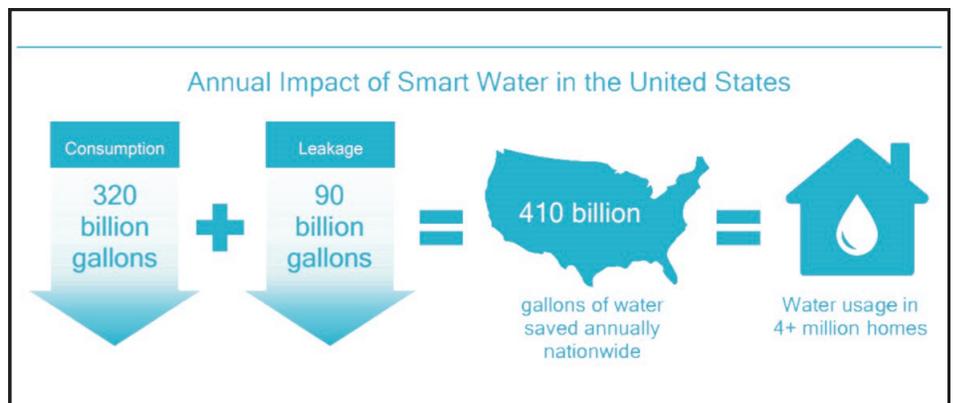
provide Aqua the ability to collect, process and analyze data to monitor conservation programs, detect and measure water loss, and increase security and reliability, as well as to better serve our members.

Having real-time data would allow us to detect spikes in usage that might indicate a leak, and quickly notify members to prevent water loss and avoid surprise bills. In addition, when AMI technology is fully implemented, water customers could access their smart meter data through an app on their smartphones, allowing them to view real-time usage, set up customized notifications, and track and view their water bills.

Identifying patterns in water consumption provides a water utility with information about peak demand times

to ensure that customer needs are met efficiently. The use of AMI technology also allows the smart meters to be coupled with other types of sensors, such as pressure and water quality monitors. When this useful data is securely transmitted to the utility's information management system, this increases the possibility of conducting preventive maintenance to further improve efficiency and save valuable water resources.

Aqua will be performing a pilot study of AMI technology this year to see how the smart meters perform in a small section of our service area. If all goes well, we expect to introduce this technology for our members in the near future, paving the way to a brighter, smarter future for water conservation in Central Texas.



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[www.facebook.com/
AquaWaterSupply](http://www.facebook.com/AquaWaterSupply)

Free automated phone payment and online bill pay are available 24/7. You can pay with all major credit cards, E-Check or automatic bank draft.

Payment by phone: Call Aqua at (512) 303-3943 and select option 5 — the interactive voice response system will guide you through the process.

Online: Visit www.aquawsc.com and select Pay My Bill. You will be redirected to a secure website with instructions for payment.

Automatic bank draft: Complete a Bank Authorization form, available from our office or website, and return the completed form to our office with a voided check.

Go Green: To start receiving an e-bill please email a request along with your 10-digit Aqua account number to: ebilling@aquawsc.com.

Safe ♦ Reliable ♦ Sustainable

CALL AQUA BEFORE YOU DIG:

Aqua Water will locate the Aqua water lines for you. Calling for a line locate before any type of excavation is a good idea. Water loss and service interruptions from damaged lines are avoidable, please call the Aqua office: (512) 303-3943.