

December 2023  
Issue 38

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## Do You Know the History of Aqua Water Supply?

Aqua Water Supply Corporation (WSC) began operations in January 1970. Prior to that time, rural residents in the Central Texas area often hauled water or used cisterns. There were some scattered community wells, but the water quality varied between locations.

The opportunity to create a nonprofit water supply corporation to serve Bastrop and surrounding counties came about when the U.S. Farm and Home Administration extended loans and grants to provide safe drinking water at reasonable prices in rural areas across the country.

The main leader of the effort was Jack Griesenbeck, a Bastrop resident whose career included election to Bastrop City Mayor and Bastrop County Judge. With help and advice from Congressman J.J. "Jake" Pickle among others, Judge Griesenbeck was the driving force

behind the creation and organization of Aqua WSC.

Aqua WSC now serves rural and urban homes, farms, businesses and ranches in a roughly 1,100-square mile service area that spans six Texas counties, including most of Bastrop County and parts of Travis, Lee, Caldwell, Fayette and Williamson.

Our water supply system covers 33,000 connections serving approximately 113,000 people. In terms of meter connections,

Aqua WSC is the second largest water supply corporation in Texas.

Since its founding to today, the mission of the Aqua Water Supply Corporation is to enhance the quality of life for our members and their families by providing safe, reliable and sustainable water and wastewater services that meet or exceed state and federal regulatory standards. We look forward to continuing this mission for generations to come.



**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.

## Aqua Water Supply Annual Membership Meeting

A reminder that the annual membership meeting for Aqua Water Supply Corporation will be held on March 22, 2024, at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall located at 4045 FM 535, in Rockne, Texas. Elections will be held for Directors representing Zones 3, 4, 8 and 9. The first two digits of your Aqua WSC account number indicate your zone number.

Official candidacy applications for directors election

must be submitted by December 31, 2023. The Official Candidacy Application and Petition forms are available at Aqua WSC's administrative office and may also be obtained from the Aqua WSC website. From the Homepage, select the "Online Forms" tab at the bottom of the page, and you will see a link for the Official Candidacy Application and Petition form.

~ We hope to see you at the annual membership meeting!



## Aqua WSC is Proud to Support Local Causes

As a non-profit cooperative business, our membership's best interests are at the heart of all we do. That's why Aqua WSC is pleased to invest in the long-term well-being of our community, including support for local education, healthcare and emergency assistance for families in need.

We regularly support a wide range of local causes as part of these community efforts. Here are a few of the non-profit organizations and causes that Aqua WSC and our employees regularly support:

- \* CAST for Kids Foundation
- \* Children's Advocacy Center
- \* Education Foundations of Bastrop, Elgin, Lockhart and Smithville
- \* Emergency Food Pantry
- \* Empty Bowl Project
- \* Family Crisis Center
- \* Future Farmers of America (FFA)
- \* Relay for Life
- \* Volunteer Fire Departments of Delhi, McMahan

In addition to these causes, we also support the higher education goals of our members and their families with the annual Aqua Water Supply Scholarship Program. To learn more about how to apply for a scholarship, visit the Aqua WSC website at [www.aquawsc.com](http://www.aquawsc.com) and click on the Community tab.

## Does My Drinking Water Contain Lead?

In 1991, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) enacted the Lead and Copper Rule to regulate lead and copper levels in public drinking water. This rule requires water utilities to regularly test for these contaminants in our distribution systems, with a maximum target goal of 0 parts per billion.

One of the most common sources of lead in drinking water are lead service lines that connect private plumbing systems to the public water main. To address this issue, the EPA recently revised the Lead and Copper Rule to require water utilities to identify customer-owned lead service lines.

To assist us with this effort, Aqua WSC is requesting that all our members fill out a **Lead Service Line Survey**, and we ask that you complete this survey as soon as possible. To reach the online survey, simply scan the QR code printed below on this page with your mobile phone, or visit: <https://bit.ly/SurveyAquaWSC>.

It's understandable that homeowners might have some concerns about lead and drinking water, so here are answers to a few general questions.

### ◆ How does lead get into drinking water?

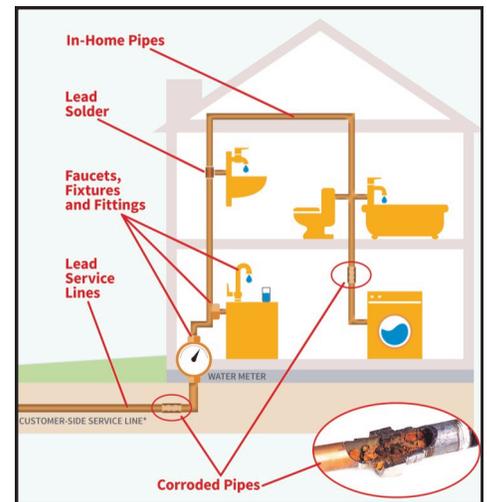
Since the late 1980s, the use of lead in household plumbing products has been steadily reduced or eliminated. However, older household plumbing may contain lead in water service lines, lead solders and plumbing fixtures. Galvanized iron pipes, which were common prior to the 1960s, can also attract lead particles and then release them into the water. As these components age, greater amounts of lead may leach into the water, particularly when water is left standing in pipes for long periods of time.

### ◆ Does my water contain lead?

Homes built or renovated after the early 1990s have a low likelihood of lead contamination. In addition, Aqua WSC's water supply comes from a section of the Carrizo-Wilcox underground aquifer where the water generally is not corrosive, and the majority of Aqua WSC's distribution pipeline is made from PVC plastic, not metal. But lead in drinking water is odorless, colorless and tasteless, so the only way to know for sure if your home's plumbing contains lead is to either inspect your plumbing for lead components, or conduct sampling and lab testing.

### ◆ What can I do to prevent lead in my water?

Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of corrosion or wearing away of materials in household plumbing, faucets and valves, such as in older homes where lead solder was



used to connect copper pipes. When replacing plumbing in your home, always look for products that have been certified to be lead-free.

Lead leaches more easily into hot water, so be sure to use cold tap water for cooking or drinking. You can reduce the risk of lead in tap water by running cold water to flush your home plumbing for about two minutes before consuming water, particularly in the morning, or when water has been sitting in your pipes for a while. To conserve water, showering or flushing the toilet is an effective way to allow fresh water to enter household plumbing.

At Aqua WSC, we take seriously our responsibility to protect members and their families from exposure to lead or other harmful substances. Aqua WSC regularly monitors and reports on water quality per regulatory requirements and guidance. To read the most recent annual water quality report from Aqua WSC, please visit our website: [www.aquawsc.com/reports](http://www.aquawsc.com/reports).

### Lead & Copper Service Line Survey



# AQUA

WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

415 Old Austin Hwy.  
Drawer P  
Bastrop, TX 78602

## Aqua Water Supply Corporation

415 Old Austin Hwy.  
Drawer P  
Bastrop, TX 78602

Phone: (512) 303-3943  
Fax: (512) 303-4881  
TDD: 1-800-735-2989  
Email: [info@aquawsc.com](mailto:info@aquawsc.com)  
Website: [www.aquawsc.com](http://www.aquawsc.com)  
Lab Site: [www.aquawsc.com](http://www.aquawsc.com)



[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](http://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](mailto: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.