

**August 2017  
Issue 13**

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## Why Do We Need Utility Easements?

For many homeowners, the subject of utility easements can be somewhat confusing, prompting a number of common questions: What is an easement? Why does it exist? Who owns the land? What can I do with it?

Utility easements are specified areas of a property that were defined for use by utility companies when the property was first platted, or mapped out. Easements can be designated for both overhead and underground utility lines, including electric, water, sewer, telephone and cable television.

When a community is being developed, it's much more cost-efficient to run utility lines straight across the entire area, rather than running them around each parcel of land. This helps utility companies reduce the cost of labor and materials needed to provide initial service to the

neighborhood, as well as keeping maintenance costs lower. In this way, easements are beneficial for the entire community.

While utility easements can be located in the public right of way, such as along a road, they are frequently located on a homeowner's property. For example, a designated easement might lie along the edge of your property where your local water lines tie in to the main water supply line or public sewer.

In the case of a utility easement being situated on private property, the homeowner maintains ownership of their land. Some restrictions need to be placed on what the property owner can do within the easement, however, in order for the utility company to gain access to their lines for regular service or emergency repairs.

Non-structural improvements are generally allowable, such as walkways or fencing, but more permanent construction is restricted by necessity.

These restrictions include:

- Any permanent structure that would prevent access to utility lines in the event of an emergency, such as buildings, concrete driveways or retaining walls
- Any object that could hinder long-term operation of utility lines, including lakes, detention ponds, swimming pools and large trees.

At Aqua Water Supply, we're committed to providing the best possible service to our membership. Utility easements don't allow us to take ownership of your land — they give us the right to use the area in a way that enables a safe, reliable and sustainable water supply for all.

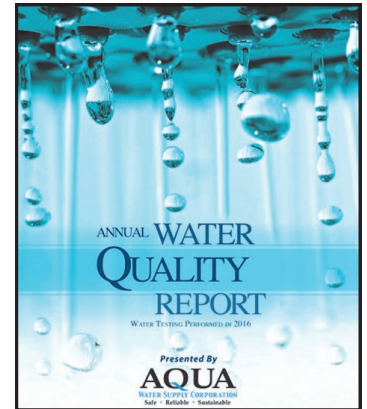
**Office Hours:**  
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**  
**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

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

## Consumer Confidence Report Available

The new Aqua Water Supply Consumer Confidence Report is now available. This comprehensive report covers testing for a range of potential contaminants, as verified by the independent Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

To view and download the report in digital format, please visit: [www.aquawsc.com/content/Water\\_Quality\\_Report.pdf](http://www.aquawsc.com/content/Water_Quality_Report.pdf). Feel free to contact the Aqua office at (512) 303-3943 or via email at [info@aquawsc.com](mailto:info@aquawsc.com) with any questions.



## Community Happenings

### Paige Lions Club Founders Day

Saturday, September 9, at the Paige Community Center. Activities start at 2:00 p.m. — Class reunions, 50/50, 50ft water slide, slushes, live music, silent auction, cake walk, dominoes and more. BBQ plates can be purchased starting at 5:00 p.m. For information: (512) 348-5882.

### Grace Lutheran Church Annual Bazaar

Sunday, September 17, at the Smithville VFW. BBQ beef and pork lunch starting at 11:00 a.m. Auction at 1:00 p.m. Raffle, country store, silent auction and games for all.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church Festival, String Prairie

Sunday, September 24, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in String Prairie. Mass at 10:00 a.m. Beef BBQ plates served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Activities include music, raffle, food booths, auction starting at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

### St. Mary's Catholic Church Festival, Pin Oak

Saturday, October 7, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Pin Oak. Mass at 3:00 p.m. outside under the oak trees. Dinner at 4:30 p.m. Live auction to start at 6 p.m.

### St. Paul's Catholic Church Festival, Smithville

Sunday, October 15, at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Smithville. Mass at 10:15 a.m., followed by lunch at 11:30 a.m. Live auction starting at 1:00 p.m. Games and kids' activities all afternoon.

### Bastrop County Veterans Honor Guard

Meetings are held the first Saturday of each month at the Smithville VFW at 10 a.m. "We served with honor" now "We honor those who served."

### Delhi Volunteer Fire Dept. Gun Raffle/Chili Cook-off

Saturday, October 21, at the Delhi Community Center, 6110 State Highway 304. Dinner served at 4:00 p.m., followed by live auction, concluding with raffle drawing. Gun raffle tickets \$20. To purchase call (830) 263-1555 or visit [Facebook.com/DelhiVolunteerFireDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/DelhiVolunteerFireDepartment). All proceeds benefit Fire Dept.

### Bastrop Chapter Texas Outdoor Woman Network (TOWN)

TOWN-Bastrop meets third Tuesday of the month 6:30 p.m. (excluding June & Dec.) at the Bastrop Public Library. Ladies interested in fishing, kayaking, camping, bird watching, hiking are invited to attend. Visit [www.meetup.com/www-townbastrop-org](http://www.meetup.com/www-townbastrop-org).

### Bastrop VFW Post 12104

Meetings are held the first Sunday of each month, temporarily, at the Bastrop American Legion, 3003 E Loop 150, at 2:00 p.m.

### Elgin VFW 6115

1st Friday Fish Fry 6:30 p.m. • Tuesday Free Texas Hold'em 6:30 p.m. • Thursday Bingo 7:30 p.m. • Friday Karaoke 8:00 p.m.

### Ernest Bartsch VFW 2527, Rockne

Post and Auxiliary meetings are held the second Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Bingo Wednesday – Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; Games start at 7:30 p.m. Located at 1503 FM 20 in Rockne, 10 miles SW of Bastrop. Hall for rent - call (512) 321-2610 for information.

### Lost Pines Leathernecks Detachment 1384

Marine Corps League in Bastrop County meets third Sunday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Bastrop American Legion Post. Good meal following meeting provided by members.

**\*Please Note:** The Aqua Water Supply customer 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 [info@aquawsc.com](mailto:info@aquawsc.com) by the fifth day of January, April, July or October.

## Congratulations to Winners of Ernest W. Bracewell Scholarships!

**Traci Bricka** will graduate from Abilene Christian University in August with a degree in Psychology and minor in Business Administration. She plans to study Psychology at the University of Texas at Arlington as a doctoral student. Traci is the daughter of Max and Stacey Bricka of Bastrop.



**Meredith Masi** is attending Texas A&M University in College Station for a degree in Agribusiness and minor in Psychology. She is earning the International Trade and Agriculture Certificate, and plans to earn a doctorate of Physical Therapy. Meredith is the daughter of Chris and Barbara Masi of Pflugerville.



**Samantha Campos** is currently a graduate student at Texas A&M University at Kingsville. She is pursuing a Master's degree in Speech-Language Pathology. Samantha is the daughter of Pedro and Jennifer Campos of Smithville.



**Sara McManus** is currently attending Texas A&M University in College Station, pursuing a degree in Animal Science with a minor in Agricultural Communications. Sara is the daughter of Sam and Christine McManus of McDade.

**Caitlyn Duty** graduated as Valedictorian from Smithville High School. She plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station to pursue a degree in Biology. Caitlyn is the daughter of Jimmy and Lisa Duty of Rosanky.



**Amber Mendel** graduated from Cedar Creek High School. She plans to attend Stephen F. Austin State University and pursue a degree in Nursing. Amber is the daughter of Gregory and Vivian Mendel of Cedar Creek.



**Elijah Hendrix** graduated from Giddings High School. He plans to attend the University of Texas at Austin to pursue a degree in Applied Movement Science, and continue on to obtain a doctoral degree in Physical Therapy. Elijah is the son of Travis and Veronica Hendrix of Giddings.



**Ashley Ridlon** graduated from Cedar Creek High School. She plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station for a degree in Biomedical Science, and to obtain a doctorate of Exotic Veterinary Medicine. Ashley is the daughter of Brian and Jennifer Ridlon of Cedar Creek.





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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.