

February 2017
Issue 12

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Office Hours:
MONDAY - FRIDAY
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 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 June 1, 2017, and a maximum of six scholarships will be awarded by August.

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,
- 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,
- Applicant must be a U.S. citizen.

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 in

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.

Completed application forms must be submitted by June 1, along with proof of GPA, two letters of recommendation, proof of citizenship (copy of birth certificate or passport) and a personal essay for review by the Aqua scholarship committee.

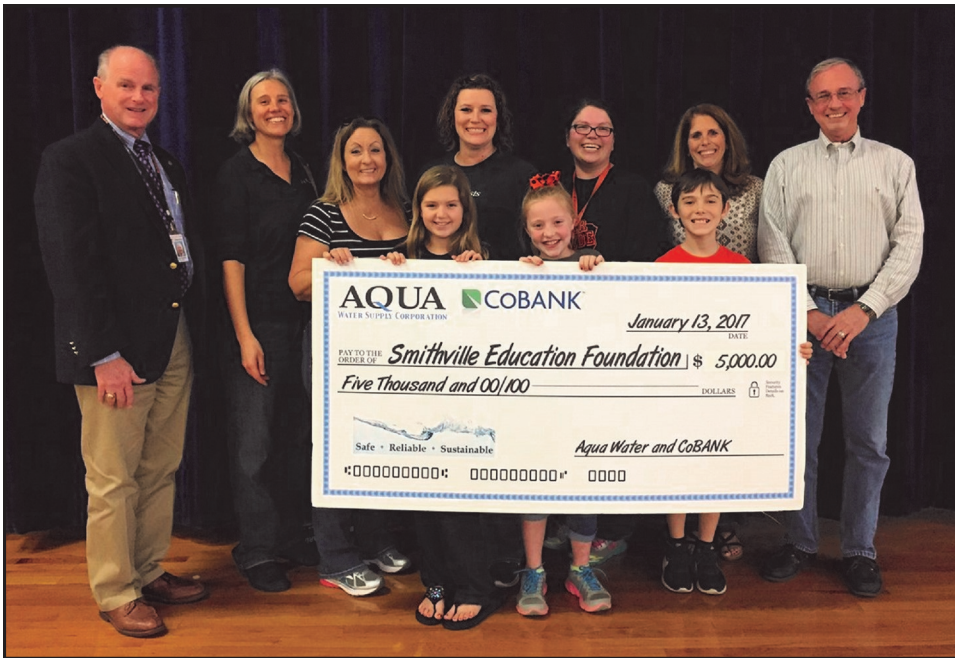
Good luck to all our scholarship applicants!

Annual Membership Meeting Reminder

The annual membership meeting for Aqua Water Supply Corporation will be held March 3, 2017 at the VFW Hall, 118 Old Sayers Rd. in Elgin, TX. Elections will be held for Directors representing Zones 1, 6, and 7. To determine your zone number, find the first two digits of your Aqua account number.

All members who attend the Annual Meeting will be eligible for door prizes. The prize drawing will be held at the end of the meeting. We hope to see you there!

Aqua is Proud to Support Local Education



Pictured back row, left to right:
 Superintendent Dr. Rock McNulty;
 Education Foundation Board
 Members Jill Strube, Melanie
 Summarell, Molly Cox, Nancy Towry;
 Aqua General Manager Dave
 McMurry.

Pictured front row, left to right:
 Aqua Community Relations Director
 Linda Nietsche; Smithville students
 Laney Summarell, Kaycee Nutt,
 Chance Koi.

As part of our ongoing community support efforts, Aqua recently presented the Smithville Education Foundation with a \$5,000 contribution to help fund innovative teacher grants.

Community Happenings

Bastrop County Empty Bowl Project

Saturday, Feb. 25, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at Bastrop High School Cafeteria. \$20 entry fee includes soup, dessert and handmade pottery bowl; children 12 and under eat free of charge.

Rockne-String Prairie Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

Friday, March 3, at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church school hall in Rockne. Serving will be from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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.

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."

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 by the fifth day of January, April, July or October.

Is Your Septic System Healthy?

As a water utility, we talk a lot about the water supply system that goes into your house, providing your family with fresh water for drinking, cooking or bathing. But what about the wastewater system that comes out of your house?

While some Aqua cooperative members have access to wastewater service, many customers in our service area use a septic system for wastewater treatment. As you may already know, septic systems are particularly common in rural areas across the U.S. But do you know how to best maintain your septic system?

A typical septic system consists of an underground septic tank and a drainfield. The system is designed to break down waste naturally and slowly disperse organic matter into the soil. Most people don't give much thought to their septic system, but a malfunction could result in groundwater contamination and spread disease to humans and animals. What's more, repairing or replacing your system can cost you thousands of dollars.

Fortunately, most septic systems are pretty easy to maintain. Here are a few simple steps to keep your septic system – and your family – healthy!

Inspect and Pump Frequently

The average household septic system should be inspected every three

years by a professional, and pumped out every three to five years. If you have a system with electrical float switches, pumps or mechanical components, consider having it inspected every year. Factors affecting how often to pump your septic include the size of your household, how much wastewater is generated and septic tank size.

Use Water Efficiently

The less water your family flushes or allows to run down the drain, the less water enters the septic system. So conserving water not only saves money on your water bill, but also improves the operation of your septic system. High-efficiency toilets and shower flow restrictors help reduce water use, as does running only full loads of laundry.

Properly Dispose of Waste

Everything that goes down the drain ends up in your septic system, whether you flush it down the toilet,

grind it in the garbage disposal, or pour it down the sink. Because your septic system relies on a collection of living organisms to digest and treat household waste, pouring toxins down your drain can kill these organisms and harm your septic system. Try to avoid using chemical drain openers, and never pour cooking grease, oil or large volumes of toxic cleaners down the drain.

Maintain your Drainfield

The drainfield is an important part of your septic system. To be sure it's maintained properly, don't park or drive on your drainfield, and make sure that trees are planted a safe distance away to keep roots from growing into your septic system. In addition, roof drains, sump pumps and other rainwater drainage systems should be kept away from the drainfield area, as excess water slows down or stops the wastewater treatment process.

Please Note: Aqua Water Supply has opted to deliver its **Consumer Confidence Report** in electronic format, and we will no longer mail copies of this report to each of our individual member households. This change in distribution is being made in the interest of saving money and conserving environmental resources.

An internet url address will be made available where you will be able to view and download the report. More details will be published in the next issue of this newsletter, as well as on the Aqua website and Facebook page. If you prefer to receive a paper copy of the report, please contact the Aqua office at (512) 303-3943 or via email at info@aquawsc.com.

Thank you for helping us conserve resources!

AQUA

WATER SUPPLY CORPORATION

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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.