

February 2021
Issue 27

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Annual Membership Meeting Reminder

The annual membership meeting for Aqua Water Supply Corporation will be held March 5, 2021, at the Elgin VFW Hall located at 118 Sayers Rd. in Elgin.

Registration begins at 1:30 pm and the meeting will convene at 2:00 pm. Annual reports will be given by the President and

Treasurer. The President's report will summarize 2020 activities and provide an outlook for key projects and investments in 2021.

Due to COVID-19, Aqua Water Supply will implement the following safety precautions for this year's meeting:

- Masks are required to be

worn at all times by all who attend

- Temperature screening and hand sanitizer for all before entering the building
- Refreshments will not be served
- Door prizes will not be given.

Thank you for your understanding.

Did you Know...?

If you were to place the Aqua Water Supply distribution pipes from end to end...
They would stretch from Austin to Salt Lake City and back!



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 May 28, 2021, and 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 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!

Completed application forms must be submitted by May 28, 2021, 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.

Community Happenings

Wild and Scenic Film Festival Drive-in Movie

Saturday, April 3, the Pines and Prairies Land Trust is hosting the Wild and Scenic Film Festival. Short documentary films about nature, conservation and outdoor recreation will be projected on an outdoor screen, and attendees are invited to watch from their cars or lawn chairs. The event will be held at the Billig Ranch, and attendees have an option to camp out at the preserve following the screening. More information and tickets are available at www.pplt.org/events.

Bastrop VFW Post 12104

New Meeting Day and Time — Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 p.m. New meeting location is 1349 FM 1441, Bastrop.

***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.

Don't Get Lost in the FOG

Did you know that fats, oils and grease — often referred to as FOG — can cause serious damage to your plumbing? Cooking oil, butter, margarine, grease and meat fats are all common by-products of food preparation. But if this FOG gets washed down the drain during kitchen clean-up, it forms large, thick grease balls that can clog the pipes.

In fact, clogged pipes can be more than just a minor nuisance. When FOG solidifies in sewer lines or septic tanks, these clogs can cause sewage backups and spills, creating environmental problems, health hazards or flooded homes and businesses.

Some communities can spend billions of dollars every year unplugging or replacing grease-blocked pipes, repairing pump stations, and cleaning up costly wastewater spills. These substances can even shut down water treatment plants.

Sewer pipes blocked by grease are a common cause of sewage overflows. And when sewer pipes back up on private property, the homeowner is responsible for the cleanup.

Preventing sewer backups from blockages saves money and protects the environment. Here are a few helpful tips to avoid FOG clogs:

- ✓ Can the grease. Keep an empty metal can and pour oil and grease into the can. Allow grease in the container to cool before throwing it in the trash.
- ✓ Wipe before washing. After pouring off grease into a container, use a paper towel to wipe out the pan before washing so you don't flush oils and grease down the drain.
- ✓ Seal the oil. Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material like coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- ✓ Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- ✓ Protect your drain. Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.



Simple steps to keep our water clean, protect public health, and avoid expensive plumbing repairs.

Clean Pipes are Green Pipes

TAKE CARE OF TEXAS

Don't flush any types of wipes down the commode, even flushable wipes. Food can cling to them and build up more quickly in wastewater pipes.

Recycle used cooking oil or pour it into a sealable container and place it in the trash. Never pour oil or grease down the drain. If you have a lot of oil, mix it with cat litter a little at a time and pour it in a sealed bag in the trash.

Compost food waste when possible; otherwise, throw scraps in the trash.

Wipe dishes and cookware with a paper towel to remove grease, rather than running water over them. Don't use cloth towels as the grease will end up in the sewer when you wash them.

Place a strainer in the sink drain to catch small pieces of food and eliminate your use of a garbage disposal. Food scraps of any kind can plug your home's wastewater lines.

Never pour cooking oil, pan drippings, gravy, bacon grease, lard, shortening, butter, margarine, salad dressings, mayonnaise, creams, or sauces down the sink or toilet.

Use environmentally safe cleaning products, such as those that have the EPA Safer Choice label, instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.

Take Care of Texas
TakeCareOfTexas.org
A PROGRAM OF TCEQ

FOG represents a serious enemy of household plumbing, septic systems and sewer lines. To protect your pipes — and the environment — never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain or garbage disposal.

By avoiding FOG clogs, you can save yourself a lot of time, hassle and money.

AQUA

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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.