

CHEROKEE CHANNEL

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DECEMBER 2009

Stay of Enforcement: Wells 14-17

Cherokee has successfully filed a motion granting a stay of enforcement on the abandonment of our water rights to wells 14-17. This decision allows continued use of the wells until our case is presented before the Colorado Supreme Court for a final ruling, as early as September or October. We will keep you up to date on the appeal process as more information becomes available.

2010 Rate Outlook

Delivering quality water and wastewater service depends on rates paid by you the customer, and our rate structure is designed to recover only the costs to provide the services you expect and deserve. After careful analysis and consideration, staff and the Board of Directors determined a rate increase is necessary to maintain the level of services we currently provide.

With that in mind, on December 8, 2009, the Cherokee Board of Directors approved a water and wastewater rate increase for 2010. You'll notice these changes on all statements mailed after February 1, 2010. Based on average residential usage - not including irrigation - you can expect to see an increase of \$13.48 per month. Although rate increases are never popular, particularly with current economic conditions, there are many contributing factors:

Water

- Funding several water resource acquisitions in 2010
- Investing in the replacement and rehabilitation of aging infrastructure to ensure a safe and dependable water supply
- Cherokee leased 500 acre feet of water from Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) in 2009. A new 2010 lease agreement increases the amount of water available from 500 to 1,000 acre feet but also increases the cost from \$1,100 to over \$3,000 per acre foot
- Leasing a minimum of 500 acre feet of water from CSU at a cost of \$1.8 million to maintain current service levels
- Although a stay of enforcement was granted for supply wells 14-17, the timing and final decision of the Colorado Supreme Court will impact our available water supply. An adverse decision will require us to lease the additional 500 acre feet from CSU to offset production loss

Wastewater

- Increasing our workforce to oversee facility operations at the new Black Squirrel Wastewater Treatment Facility coming online April 2010
- A significant increase in operational expenses associated with running a mechanical wastewater treatment facility

Key Factors

- The Board of Directors does not want to impose additional conservation measures, as they consider Stage 2 the minimum level needed to maintain property values and a quality standard of living
- Loss of tap fee income
- Meeting the minimum requirements for our current outstanding bonds

Residential Rates

Wastewater & Street Lights			Availability	Water Rates				
Charge/ Fee	Wastewater Charge	Street Light Fee	Availability Charge	Units	First 5	Next 15	Next 15	Over 35
2009	\$24.48	\$1.18	\$8.21	2009	\$2.07	\$2.58	\$3.87	\$5.82
Increase	\$2.45	\$0.00	\$0.00	Increase	\$1.80	\$2.24	\$3.36	\$5.06
2010	\$26.93	\$1.18	\$8.21	2010	\$3.87	\$4.82	\$7.23	\$10.88

Charges/Fees shown are a monthly flat-rate

Rates shown are per unit. One unit equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons

Watering Schedule

Winter Stage

Odd Addresses 1st/3rd Saturday	Even Addresses 1st/3rd Sunday
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Duration: Maximum of 2 hours
Time of Day: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Above 40°F

Watering schedules are based on available supply and irrigation demand and are therefore subject to change.

Attend a Board Meeting

January 12, 2010 February 9, 2010 March 9, 2010 April 13, 2010	Time: 5:30 p.m. Location: CMD Office 6250 Palmer Park Blvd
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Water Returns 2010

Don't miss your chance to join the growing community of Cherokee residents who've discovered the many benefits of water-wise landscaping practices:

See your landscape in full color and not just shades of green

...xeric plants offer a wide variety of color, texture & form

Find new value in your property

...good landscaping can increase a home's value 5-20%

Design a landscape with our conservation plan in mind

...through water-wise design, plant selection & maintenance practices

Enjoy healthy and productive relationships

...learn from seasoned veterans who know the way to a sustainable landscape

Be part of the solution to a community-wide issue

...help conserve our water supply and encourage others to do the same

Don't just take our word for it, here's what Cherokee resident Kathy Dodge said about the 2009 program:

"...can't thank you enough..." "...learned tons of new information..." "...other homeowners are taking notice and...have started their own projects. How exciting!"

New in 2010! Customize your training by selecting a package option or attending workshops individually.

Option 1 - \$75...only \$25 if you're among the first 10 to register!

Full-Day Water-Wise Essentials Workshop w/Lunch (Jan 30)
Half-Day Xeriscape Garden Tour (Jun)
Half-Day Winterization Workshop (Sep)

Option 2 - \$55...only \$15 if you're among the first 5 to register!

Full-Day Irrigation & Coaching Workshop w/ Lunch (Feb 13)

Seasonal single-subject classes and on-site coaching session will be available throughout the year, so stay tuned for announcements at cherokeemetro.org.

Contact Bryan English @ 719-597-5080 or benglish@cherokeemetro.org for more information

Get In The Know: Cherokee Ridge

Would you like to keep up with events and sales at Cherokee Ridge Golf Course? Join our contact list by sending your e-mail address to Todd Laxson at tlaxson@cherokeemetro.org and be the first to know about upcoming events and sales!



Bring in this edition of the *Cherokee Channel* and receive 20% off your breakfast or lunch order at the Grill on the Green.

Call 719-597-2637 for Winter Course Schedule
cherokeeridgegolfcourse.com



Photo courtesy of Kathy Dodge

May Election

Three of our Board of Directors' four-year terms expire in May 2010. An election will be held on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 to fill these vacancies. The Election Transparency Notice below will provide you with important election related information.

See you in May!



Name of Special District	Cherokee Metropolitan District	
Address & Telephone number of Cherokee's principal business office	6250 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80915 719-597-5080	
Primary Contact Person for District	Kip Petersen, General Manager	
Time and Place designated for Cherokee's Regular Board Meetings	Second Tuesday of each month beginning at 5:30 p.m. 6250 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80915	
Posting Place designated for Cherokee's meeting notices	Cherokee Metropolitan District 6250 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80915 Cherokee Ridge Golf Course 1850 Tuskegee Place Colorado Springs, CO 80915	Cimarron Hills Fire Department 1835 Tuskegee Place Colorado Springs, CO 80915
District Mill Levy	0 mills, for levy in year 2009 & 2010	
Total Ad Valorem Tax Revenue received by Cherokee during 2009	\$0.00	
Names of Board Members	Steve Hasbrouck Term expires May, 2012	David Hacker This office will be on the May 2010 Ballot 4-year Term
	Kurt VandenBoogaard This office will be on the May 2010 Ballot 4-year Term	Robert Lovato Term expires May, 2012
	Sean Byers This office will be on the May 2010 Ballot 4-year Term	
Date of Next Regular Election	May 4, 2010	
Self-nomination forms to be a candidate for Cherokee's Board of Director may be obtained from and returned to:	Dian D. Hardekopf, Designated Election Official Cherokee Metropolitan District 6250 Palmer Park Blvd Colorado Springs, CO 80915 719-597-5080	
Completed Self-nomination forms must be completed and received by the District by:	February 26, 2010, no later than 4:00 p.m.	
Cherokee Election results will be posted on these websites:	Secretary of State www.sos.state.co.us	Cherokee Metro District www.cherokeemetro.org
Application to request permanent mail-in voter status	May be obtained from: El Paso County Clerk & Recorder or Online from Secretary of State: www.elections.colorado.gov	and may be returned to: El Paso County Clerk and Recorder
Notice Completed by:	Dian D. Hardekopf Assistant Manager/DEO dhardekopf@cherokeemetro.org	Notice Date: December 14, 2009