**Colorado City Newsletter**

 **March 2024**

**Our Manager and Water System won awards!!**

Colorado Rural Water Association (CRWA) will honor District Manager James Eccher for Manager of the Year and Colorado City for Water System of the Year at a banquet March 20, 2024, during the CRWA 43rd Annual Conference and Exhibition at the Embassy Suites in Loveland. Colorado Rural Water Association (CRWA)3118 is a non-profit corporation that provides technical assistance and training to Colorado’s public and private water and wastewater systems with an outreach philosophy of reaching all corners of the state. Of the over 2000 water and wastewater systems in Colorado, 98% serve less than 10,000 population, and all have separate unique struggles. Scott Thomas and Josiah Thomas from CRWA have been working closely with Jim and CCMD staff to improve our water system and infrastructure for the present and future and have honored CCMD with recognition of addressing issues and implementing current and coming improvements. When you see Jim or any of the staff give them a big thanks for their hard work. All involved understand we have more to do, but we are diligently moving forward.

**System Upgrades and Funding**

Planning and engineering is currently active to renovate Lake Beckwith Dam, upgrade the water treatment plant, and install a dissolved air flotation (DAF) system. Although our water is constantly tested and is safe, the DAF system is expected to mitigate the color and particulate issue of the treated water. It will also help with current excessive filter maintenance problems. To fund the mandated and necessary upgrades to our water and wastewater systems we are aggressively pursuing funding from many sources. Weekly, and sometimes daily, meetings are being held with federal, state, county, and local agencies to acquire funding for approximately $18,000,000 of upgrades. Department of Local Affairs (DOLA), Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), Pueblo County, have all been helpful in providing possible, probable, and actual grants and low interest forgivable loans. The funds requested are for improvements and the recent rate increase was critical to assure these agencies, and ourselves, we will be able to maintain our system into the future.

We should be seeing construction activity on the dam late this fall. Although we would like to see major improvements immediately, it will be 3 to 4 years before planned upgrades are completed.

**Drop- Box**

A reminder:

For your convenance, a secure 24/7 drop-box is located on the north side of the CCMD office to pay your district bill. You can also pay by phone (719-676-3396) or online at [www.coloradocitymd.colorado.gov](http://www.coloradocitymd.colorado.gov) Don’t use any punctuation when you enter your account number. (for example, 1234.56 should be entered as 123456).

**Real Estate Taxes**

We’ve all been hit with higher taxes because of increased assessment values. CCMD recognizes the pain and, bucking the trend of governments, temporarily lowered the 2024 mill levy from a max allowed by citizens vote from 17.967 to 17.186. Every little bit helps.

**Tank Repair**

You’ve probably noticed water tanks 1 (on Red Cloud) and 2 (on Beckwith Dr) look different. Exterior painting and interior reconditioning is progressing. Next will be tank 3 (on the hill north of Hwy 165 halfway to Rye).

Please note we are still under water restrictions so to be able to isolate a tank for rehab.

**Recreation**

The days are getting longer! And most days are inviting us to take advantage of outside activities. A good time to encourage spring and summer by enjoying our beautiful valley while playing disc golf, Hollydot golf, pickleball, baseball, bird watching, or hiking ….

**New Website**

Our new website is now active and accessible at either [www.colocitymd.colorado.gov](http://www.colocitymd.colorado.gov). or [www.coloradocitymd.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cnwell%5CDownloads%5Cwww.coloradocitymd.org)

Check it out and let us know what you like or dislike and how we can improve. Better communication is an ongoing goal, and we welcome help.

**Colorado City Architectural Control Committee**

The CCACC is actively working with Pueblo County and local residents to maintain a desirable place to live and thrive. Behind the scenes efforts are sometimes painstakingly slow but are ongoing. Send Questions, Comments, Suggestions to [colocityccaac@ghvalley.net](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cdvaldez%5CDownloads%5Ccolocityccaac%40ghvalley.net)

**A Beautiful Place to Live**

Please help us keep Colorado City and the Greenhorn Valley beautiful. As we enter the windy season (always) control and pick up your trash.

**Smile, Be Safe and Be Thankful!**