

## Update on Cochran Water System



The Cochran water system provides potable water to Cochran residences and businesses. The City of Cochran is working to assure that the system addresses public safety, water service, pressure and reliability for the citizens of Cochran. The City has been monitoring water quality and working with the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) to protect and improve water quality throughout the community.

The City is actively working with Georgia EPD to implement an approved action plan that addresses water quality in our system:

- The City Public Works Department and Fire Department are coordinating hydrant flushing and flow-testing to minimize the occurrence of discolored water in the system. The City has over 300 fire hydrants that must be regularly flushed, and data must be collected on hydrant pressure and flow-rates to fulfill Insurance Services Office, Inc. (ISO) standards. The ISO standards impact fire insurance rates in the City. Additionally, the City conducts routine flushing of the water system to minimize normally occurring sediments that accumulate over time within the distribution system. Hydrant flushing and flow-testing can disrupt the normal flow of water in the City's lines, resulting in water discoloration for customers. The Georgia Rural Water Association is assisting the City with coordinating these activities to minimize the chances of discolored water in the water system.
- The City has taken the Dykes Street water well off-line for inspection and upgrades and allowed the Ash Street well to serve as a primary water supply for the north and southwest portions of town. The Dykes Street well has been videoed, tested, and cleaned to make sure that it is pumping clean water into the system. No issues related to this well and water quality were observed during this inspection process. The City will coordinate with Ga. EPD on when the Dykes St. well can go back on-line.
- The City is obtaining raw water samples for testing from all four of the City's production wells to determine any potential source for elevated levels of constituents that can contribute to discolored water.
- The City is reviewing the filtration and backwash schedules and chemical additions that are components of the treatment systems at each of the four City water wells (West Dykes, Ash Street, Ann Street, and Vernon Rd.) to maximize efficiency.
- Regular backwashing of the filtration systems located at three of the City's water wells helps ensure that filters are clean, and that quality water is sent through the water lines. The Ga. Rural Water Association has reviewed the City's backwashing

program and we have implemented their suggestions to make sure that our backwashing practices lead to a quality water supply for customers.

The City will continue to report on its relations with Ga. EPD and the Georgia Rural Water Association to keep the public informed on local water quality and monitoring.

There were two recent occurrences of low water pressure in town over the last couple of weeks. One was on Saturday, June 26 when the area around the Ash Street well was affected by low water pressure. This was caused by the failure of a pump that supplies water to the Ash Street Tank to keep it full. An electrical breaker tripped, and the pump did not come on to fill up the tank when it got low. The Ash Street tank sent an alarm when the water level in the tank reached the low-level Alarm setting for this tank. To mitigate any similar issues, the breaker on the pump has been repaired and the low-level Alarm has been adjusted to notify staff before the tank level impacts system pressure.

On Monday morning, July 5, a 6" water main burst at the intersection of Fifth and E. Lewis Streets. City crews worked throughout the day to restore water to customers, most of whom are located in the City's southeast section. The City is continuing to assess the condition of its water lines, both the older lines and newer ones. The City is also actively installing new valves around town so that if a water main does burst, the problem can be valved off and isolated so that the fewest number of customers possible are affected.

Direct notification to the City of any issues results in the quickest resolutions. If you have a problem with your water, please call City Hall at (478) 934-6346 so that a work order can be completed and the City water division crew can address your problem quickly and efficiently. You are also encouraged to fill out a customer service request at [info@cityofochran.com](mailto:info@cityofochran.com).

The City appreciates and welcomes input from citizens regarding the City of Cochran water system.

Thank you.

Richard Newbern  
City Manager