

# PIPELINE

News from Water District No. 1 of Johnson County



## Message from the Board Chairman

**Bob Reese, Board Chairman**

With the arrival of spring, I'd like to take this

opportunity to update you on some recent activity at our utility.

Our 2002 Annual Budget was adopted by the Water Board in December and I am pleased that no water rate increase was required to support the 2002 operating plan.

Our Finance Division has developed an excellent process for preparing and evaluating the budget each year. The District continues to manage its operations with a strong fiscal policy.

We moved into our new facilities last November. We are proud of the Byron N. Johnson Administrative Headquarters and

Service Center, which was dedicated on November 29, 2001.

Security continues to be a high priority for the utility. Our staff has confirmed the adequacy of security measures at all our facilities. The Board approved funding in the 2002 budget for a comprehensive vulnerability & threat assessment.

It is my pleasure to be serving as Board Chairman, along with Jim Vader as Vice-Chairman. If there are any issues or concerns you have, please don't hesitate to contact me or any member of the Board, or member of our water utility management staff.

## Utility Receives Visit from Senator Brownback

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback toured our Hansen Treatment Plant in January. The Senator's visit was prompted by interest in how the September 11 attacks have impacted the daily operations of the water utility, and security measures that have been imple-

mented since the attacks in response to heightened security concerns. Following a tour of the treatment facilities, Senator Brownback met with members of the media to answer questions. Senator Brownback praised the proactive position WaterOne has taken to strengthen its overall security measures, including a security assessment that is currently underway.



**Senator Brownback and Board Chairman  
Bob Reese**

## Copper Plumbing Contributes to Internal 'Water Woes'

The last problem we thought we'd encounter after moving into our new facility would be the new plumbing; yet, that's precisely what we did experience recently when we discovered a plumbing problem that impacted our internal water quality.

What we have found is that new copper water pipe has the potential for destroying chlorine residual, which is necessary for maintaining adequate disinfection levels. This is a phenomenon that has only recently been discovered in the industry, and has the most potential for occurrence in new commercial buildings. The

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# General Manager's update

## WaterOne Continues Diligent Security Efforts

WaterOne remains on a heightened security alert, and we have implemented a number of strengthened measures to ensure the safety of our public's drinking water. In addition, we are undergoing a security assessment by a nationally recognized consultant to assist us in evaluating any remaining areas in our operations that should be strengthened.

While we are constantly monitoring activity at our facilities, we are also alert to changes that might be occurring within our distribution system that could have the potential for impacting the quality of the drinking water.

Our utility and its employees are committed to the

safety of your drinking water and are pleased to be working on your behalf, and with you, in this important effort. While we have not received any immediate threats to our water supply, our goal is to be very proactive and we encourage our customers and the general public to assist us in this regard.

If you have any issues concerning security or water quality that you would like to discuss, please don't hesitate to contact me at 895-5511, or Tom Schrempp, Director of Production, at 895-5820.



**Byron Johnson**  
**General Manager**

## WaterOne Celebrates 45 Years of Service with Dedication of New Facility

After 45 years of providing water service throughout Johnson County, WaterOne celebrated with the dedication of the **Byron N. Johnson Administrative Headquarters and Service Center** on November 29, 2001. Over three hundred visitors attended the dedication ceremony at the new facilities, located at 10747 Renner Boulevard in Lenexa.

Because of the dedication and leadership of Byron Johnson, General Manager, the Governing Board named the new building after him. The dedication not only celebrated the opening of the new facility, but also honored Johnson for his 47 years of service to the utility.

In welcoming the group, Water Board Chairman Bob Reese shared information about the utility, past and present, and emphasized the tremendous growth that has taken place since 1957 when WaterOne was formed. He also recognized many former Water Board members who were present in the audience.

Johnson expressed his gratitude for having the facility named after him. In remarks to the crowd he said, "The dedication of this building is one of the proudest moments of my career and I am so honored that the Water District

Board has recognized me in this way. I am also very pleased our utility's employees will have a modern, beautiful facility to work in for many years to come."

The new administrative offices and service center consolidates more than 250 employees from four prior sites to one location.



**Entrance to the new Byron N. Johnson Administrative Headquarters and Service Center.**



**Byron Johnson addresses the audience at the building's dedication.**



**Participating in the ribbon cutting, from left to right, were Byron Johnson, General Manager; Jim Vader, Board Vice Chairman; Bob Reese, Board Chairman.**

## Copper Plumbing cont.

problem diminishes over time with continuous flushing of the water system as the copper pipe develops a natural barrier from interaction with the chlorine.

We have consulted with nationally recognized experts in this field, and they have confirmed that the issue of new copper pipe consuming chlorine has only been recently discovered. Experts have also confirmed this problem has been discovered in other new buildings across the country. Typically, new residential homes with copper water pipe are not affected

because there is a much smaller volume of water in the system and a residence uses the water fast enough so the chlorine residual doesn't have time to be depleted.

We have notified codes officials in the cities we serve about this potential plumbing problem in new commercial buildings. We are eager to work with these individuals to answer their questions and offer potential solutions based on what we have learned. A fact sheet on this issue can be found on our web site at [www.waterone.org](http://www.waterone.org). If you have specific questions, please contact our Customer Service Department at 895-1800.

## Sale of WaterOne Real Estate Completed

The utility was successful in selling three properties that were no longer needed as a result of moving to our new facilities in Lenexa.

The former administrative office building, located at 5930 Beverly, and a vacant parcel of land in the vicinity of 59th and Lamar, were sold to the City of Mission who took possession of them in November, 2001.

The Fairbanks Service Center, located at 65th and Carter in Merriam, was sold to Tico Titanium, based in Detroit, Michigan. Closing on this property occurred in December, 2001.

## Building in Johnson County? Publication has Answers for Obtaining Water Service

Each year, WaterOne publishes a free booklet detailing information about obtaining water service for new construction. ***“Building in Johnson County 2002”*** is available and is a useful resource for developers, cities, and others who have questions about water service for residential and commercial development. The booklet contains extensive information on utility policies and a wide range of topics including: ***How to Obtain Connection Permits; Requirements for New Main Extensions; Easements; Cross Connection Control;*** and much more.

The same valuable information found in the booklet can currently be accessed by clicking on ***Developer Services*** on the home page of our utility's website at: [www.waterone.org](http://www.waterone.org). For convenience, developers and builders may also complete the necessary forms on-line for applying for new service for both residential and commercial accounts. The New Service Connection Form can be accessed through the Developer Services section of the website.

The number of new building permits issued by our utility totaled 3,194 in 2001, up slightly from the number issued in 2000.

If you would like to receive a copy of ***“Building in Johnson County 2002”***, please, call Distribution Engineering at (913) 895-5742.

## WaterOne Governing Board Members and Committee Chairs

**Bob Reese**, Board Chairman

**Jim Vader** Board Vice Chairman & Administrative Committee Chairman

**Terry Frederick**, Finance Committee Chairman

**Dick Noon**, Legislative Committee Chairman

**Dick Weisser P.E.**, Operations Committee Chairman

**Tom Barry**, Board Member

**Rob Olson**, Board Member

The Water Board meets the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the **Byron N. Johnson Administrative Headquarters and Service Center, 10747 Renner Boulevard, Lenexa**. The Board meeting agenda can be accessed from our Web site at [www.waterone.org](http://www.waterone.org).

*The WaterOne Pipeline is published for our business and community partners in Johnson County.*

Email comments or questions about the WaterOne Pipeline to [ekoutelas@waterone.org](mailto:ekoutelas@waterone.org)



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