

WaterOne CURRENT

Summer 2021

We believe in the meaningful work of producing clean water.



WATERONE HYDRANTS PAINTED AND MAINTAINED THROUGHOUT SUMMER

The annual fire hydrant audit and maintenance at WaterOne has begun! Each year, WaterOne hires a staff of summer interns to flush all of our 18,500 fire hydrants to make sure they are operational. It takes around eight interns to check the hydrants over the course of the internship, which lasts from mid-May to mid-August.

“There are two reasons we do this,” said Foreman Mark Spini, who supervises the hydrant flushing team. “The first is that we need to make sure these hydrants are working so people are protected in case of a fire. The second is that flushing all 18,500 hydrants flushes the whole system, keeping it up to date with fresh water.”

Interns typically flush about 45 hydrants a day. If a hydrant is found in need of repair, a mainstay crew will

be assigned to fix it within two days.

Once the audit is complete, the team will go back to a single hydrant for each five-block area and check flow and pressure in the area.

Summer is also the time for some WaterOne hydrants to get a fresh coat of paint. WaterOne’s contractor will paint designated hydrants with WaterOne’s standard yellow pedestal and black top. Before being painted, the fire hydrants will be primed with a silver primer coat which sometimes causes a bit of confusion amongst customers.

“We get calls every once in a while about silver hydrants,” said Assistant Manager Dusty Sease. “We let the customer know that the hydrant is still completely operational. The silver color will soon be gone and the hydrant will be back to looking normal.” 💧



Tower 2 Tower 5K Raises Money For Charity

WaterOne kicked off National Drinking Water Week 2021 with its popular annual Tower 2 Tower 5K. This year's race was the fifth edition of the Tower 2 Tower 5K, following a break in 2020 due to the COVID pandemic. The race returned in a hybrid format, with virtual participation options, staggered runner start times, and other safety precautions. Despite the adjustments, nearly 500 enthusiastic participants signed up for the race.

This year's event raised almost \$7,000 for Water For People, a non-profit that works to bring safe, clean water to developing communities around the world. The event has raised over \$61,000 since it began. Thanks to sponsors Burns & McDonnell, Black & Veatch, Lockton, Blue Cross & Blue Shield, The Insurance Pros Inc, Branding Stop, CDM Smith, and Homeserve, it is possible for 100% of the 5K registration fees to be donated.

**See results
and photos at
[Tower2Tower5K.org!](https://Tower2Tower5K.org)**

Appletoft Sworn In To WaterOne Governing Board

At its meeting on April 27th, the WaterOne Board appointed Ron Appletoft to fill its vacant Board position. Appletoft was sworn into office at the Board meeting on May 11th.

Appletoft is a long-time Johnson County resident and currently serves as mayor of the City of Mission, KS following his election in 2017. Ron's appointment to the WaterOne Board marks a return to the organization, following his retirement from WaterOne in 2017 after 37 years of service. During his career at WaterOne, Ron held the positions of Audit Manager where he served as WaterOne's legislative affairs liaison on state and federal issues, as well as serving for 12 years as WaterOne's Director of Finance and Chief Financial Officer. Throughout his career, Appletoft was instrumental in implementing many of the asset management and ratemaking strategies that have earned WaterOne recognition.

Appletoft has a history of elected service as well. He served as Treasurer for the City of Countryside, KS, helping facilitate its consolidation with the City of Mission. He went on to serve multiple terms on the city planning commission and Mission City Council. Appletoft has also held numerous leadership positions with organizations such as the Lower Republican Basin Advisory Committee, the Mission Chamber of Commerce, the Overland Park Chamber of Commerce, and the Shawnee Mission School District Parent Advisory Council. Appletoft holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of South Dakota, and is a graduate of Leadership Northeast, the Kansas Environmental Leadership Program, and Leadership Kansas. ♦



WaterOne Board Approves Wholesale Agreement With RWD 7



At its meeting on June 8th, the WaterOne Board approved a wholesale water supply agreement with Kansas Rural Water District 7 (RWD 7). The agreement will supply the neighboring water district with a minimum of 68.5 million gallons of water per year.

RWD 7 serves 3,200 customers, and the additional supply will supplement its current water sources in growing areas of Johnson County and Miami County. The 20-year agreement allows for additional capacity as demand increases within RWD 7 with the option to extend the agreement for an additional 10 years.

This is WaterOne's first wholesale water supply agreement in over 20 years. The water volume represented by the wholesale agreement will be readily supported by WaterOne's production and system capacity- in 2020, WaterOne treated a total of 23 billion gallons of water from the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, and WaterOne customers consume between 50 to 130 million gallons per day. WaterOne maintains a 40-year Master Plan, which accounts for supply and treatment capacity for full anticipated build-out of its current service area as well as capacity for additional service opportunities like supplying RWD 7.

"We're excited to begin supplying water to RWD 7 and support the continued growth of communities in our region," said WaterOne's Director of Legal & Auditing Eric Arner. "This unique opportunity is the result of a true team effort between WaterOne, RWD 7 professional staff, and elected leaders. This agreement would not have been possible without their talent and dedication."

Service to RWD 7 is expected to begin in late 2021 or early 2022. ♦

WaterOne Donates To Partner Charities For National Drinking Water Week

WaterOne is proud to announce that it has made a \$30,000 donation to its local partner charities - Harvesters Community Food Network, Habitat For Humanity of Kansas City, and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Kansas City. The three donations of \$10,000 comes entirely from contributions provided by WaterOne's service line warranty partner HomeServe, which makes it possible for WaterOne and its employees to support local causes without spending any ratepayer dollars. WaterOne's donations coincided with National Drinking Water Week 2021, which recognizes the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

These organizations were selected as partner charities because they work alongside WaterOne to support our community's basic needs of water, food, and shelter. In a typical year, WaterOne employees are granted a paid work day to volunteer at these organizations. WaterOne's employee volunteer program has been suspended due to



the COVID-19 pandemic, but the needs of these charities have never been greater.

"At WaterOne, we understand that food, shelter, and care for families is just as essential as safe, clean drinking water," said WaterOne General Manager Mike Armstrong. "We're committed to supporting the work these organizations are doing." ♦

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*WaterOne's lobby will be
Reopening Soon!*

Learn More At
WaterOne.org/Lobby

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WaterOne

Water District No. 1 of Johnson County

10747 Renner Blvd | Lenexa, KS 66219

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