WaterOne is warming up for its first ever Tower 2 Tower 5K, a unique race from the WaterOne water tower at 10747 Renner Blvd. to the City of Olathe water tower at 118th and Renner and back. This inaugural event is happening Saturday, April 30th and kicks off National Drinking Water Week. There are 400 total registrations available, so act now to secure your spot!

The Tower 2 Tower 5K is a collaboration between WaterOne and the City of Olathe. “We realized that offering a 5k would be a unique way to attract attention to tap water while raising money for a good cause,” said Communication Specialist Kelly Fry, a coordinator for the event.

Burns & McDonnell and Black & Veatch are proud sponsors for the 5k, which allows all registration fees to be donated to Water For People, a non-profit that works with underdeveloped parts of the world that desperately need clean drinking water. Water For People was founded by members of the American Water Works Association, a tap water industry association that both WaterOne and the City of Olathe are members of.

Check-in begins at 7 AM, and participants will leave the starting line promptly at 8 AM. A free Kid’s Run will happen immediately after the main race at 8:55 AM.

If you’d like to walk or run the race, register at Tower2Tower5K.org. Volunteers are also needed to check participants in and help them find the staging area. Contact Kelly Fry at kfry@waterone.org if you’d like to volunteer.
Learn how to find leaks!

An undetected leak can waste a lot of water and create a big water bill. In our latest YouTube video, we look at the spots around the home where leaks often occur.

See more of our videos at youtube.com/OurWaterOne.

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2015 Year-End Financial Update

With the 2015 books closed, last year’s financial results are now available. Despite weather-related revenue shortfalls, we were able to maintain service levels for customers with minimal impact to our operations. This is thanks in part to sound financial management strategies we have adopted in recent years.

As a water utility, weather has the biggest impact on our revenue. Pervasive rainy conditions led to less irrigation, and revenue was under budget by 10%. A portion of the revenue shortage was offset by operating cost savings. The budget was then balanced by allocating funds from the Rate Stabilization Fund, a reserve fund created in 2009 to offset revenue deficits in rainy years just like 2015.

WaterOne has been around for almost 60 years, giving us decades of experience with wet and dry years. By planning ahead for rainy years, we’re able to continue delivering great service while keeping rate increases low and stable. Responsible financial stewardship is something to be proud of at WaterOne.

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Hedge Lane Pump Station Goes Online

The Hedge Lane Pump Station and Reservoir officially came online on Monday, February 29th, serving over 20,000 WaterOne customers in parts of Overland Park, Spring Hill, and unincorporated areas in southern Johnson County. Testing will continue throughout the spring, but with everything going smoothly so far we are grateful to have reached this milestone.

Hedge Lane was a truly large and unique undertaking for WaterOne. This facility is a significant investment in our infrastructure and our capacity to support growth in Johnson County. Careful financial planning means the project will have no impact on rates for WaterOne customers.

The future need for this facility and infrastructure was first identified in our Master Plan in 1996. Ground was broken in March 2014.

Construction of the pump station and 13 miles of pipeline affected many Johnson County neighborhoods, including cross-cutting through Olathe. The following two years saw an unprecedented effort on the part of WaterOne to keep residents informed including regular updates on the project’s web page, video progress reports, letters and brochures, social media, and NotifyJoCo alerts.

In late February, the first of the pumps were switched on for testing. This marked the end of the construction phase of the project and signified Hedge Lane’s operations as an integrated part of WaterOne’s infrastructure. The project was delivered on time and under budget, and the remarkable coordination of WaterOne’s project management teams, engineering firms, and contractors made this milestone possible.
Mark Parkins Sworn In To WaterOne Board

Mark Parkins, WaterOne’s newest board member, was sworn in at the board meeting on Tuesday, February 9th. Mark was appointed by the board to fill the vacant position left by Dick Noon.

Mark is an engineer by trade and is currently a territory manager with the American Cast Iron Pipe Company. Prior to his interest in serving with WaterOne, he has been involved with the Boy Scouts of America, the American Water Works Association, his church, and is past president of his home owners association.

In his remarks, Mark expressed a respect for WaterOne’s track record of good leadership and service and his interest in supporting WaterOne’s future growth and goals. Mark will serve the remainder of the unexpired board term through January 2020, and has been appointed to the Finance Committee and the Government and Community Relations Committee.

To learn more about WaterOne’s elected governing board, visit www.waterone.org/board.

WaterOne Welcomes New HR Director

WaterOne is pleased to welcome Janet Barrow as its Director of Human Resources. Janet comes to WaterOne from the Louisville Regional Airport Authority where she has served as the Director of Human Resources since 2002. Prior to that, she served with Sears Holdings as a Regional Human Resources Manager. She assumed her new duties at WaterOne on March 21st.

“Janet has the knowledge, experience, and mindset to ensure we continue to attract, retain, and support exceptional employees,” said Mike Armstrong, General Manager of WaterOne.

Janet holds a Doctor of Education in Leadership Education from Spalding University, a Master of Public Administration from the University of Louisville, and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Spalding University. She is certified as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and has been involved in professional associations and the community.

“I’m excited to join WaterOne with its reputation for quality and excellence,” Janet commented regarding her new position.
It’s amazing how much we do in a year. In this colorful video, we paint a picture of the hard work and accomplishments of our staff in 2015. Thank you for the chance to provide you with great service. We look forward to serving you in 2016.

#MyWaterOne

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