

## Drilling is Underway for New Deep Well in Holiday Park

**C**onstruction has officially begun on the new deep well located in Holiday Park. The drill rig (pictured right) arrived on site in late November. After extensive site preparations and assembly, the construction crew from Grosch Irrigation Co. started drilling in December. The drill rig, which stands 120 feet in the air, will dig at least 2,500 feet into the ground.

The drill runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week during the construction process, which will take approximately 12 weeks depending on geologic conditions and other factors.

This is the first deep well that West Des Moines Water Works has drilled in 15 years. When complete and operational, the well will provide water source redundancy and help maximize treatment capacity.

## Residential Water Rates See Modest Increase in 2017

**W**est Des Moines Water Works is implementing a modest rate increase beginning January 1, 2017. Domestic water rates will increase 2 percent from \$4.73 to \$4.82 per 1,000 gallons. For a typical West Des Moines residence using 6,000 gallons of water monthly, the increase amounts to 54 cents a month. The rate for irrigation users will rise 10 percent from \$5.04 to \$5.54 per month.

This increase in rates reflects a 10-percent jump in the cost of water purchased from Des Moines Water Works. WDMWW purchases between 25 and 30 percent of its water from Des Moines Water Works. The Des Moines utility announced in 2015 that it would be raising prices 10 percent per year for the foreseeable future.

“Our staff carefully manages expenses to keep our rates among the most affordable in the metro,” said **Karen Novak Swalwell**, chair of the WDMWW Board of Trustees. “That commitment to financial discipline allowed us to temper the size of the rate increase for our customers.”



The drilling rig shown above is situated at the southeast corner of Holiday Park.

WDMWW continues to explore ways to ensure that West Des Moines will have access to dependable water sources far into the future. In early 2017, the Water Works expects to receive the results of a joint study with Waukee examining the availability of source water supplies west of the existing city limits.

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As much as half of a homeowner's monthly water consumption is used outdoors.\* What's more, half of the water used outdoors is wasted as a result of runoff, evaporation, wind and inefficient irrigation.

\* Source: Environmental Protection Agency



## 2017 Brings New Changes to Backflow Prevention

The No. 1 priority of West Des Moines Water Works is the delivery of safe, reliable drinking water. We accomplish this through our treatment processes and by assiduously protecting our delivery and distribution systems from any outside contamination.

The water system is designed to allow water to travel in one direction—from the treatment plant through the distribution mains to our customers via their service lines.

Backflow occurs when the pressure in a customer's plumbing increases and surpasses the pressure level of the public water system. The change in pressure causes water to flow in the reverse direction and back into the public system. Backflow adversely affects the aesthetic quality of the water and can—in more dire cases—contaminate the water system and threaten public safety.

Fortunately, backflow is avoidable when users install appropriate prevention devices in accordance with city ordinances and state plumbing codes. The prevention device contains and isolates backflow waters and any corresponding contaminants, stopping them from streaming into the public water system.

Water users who are required to install backflow prevention devices include:

- Most commercial water users
- Anyone using an irrigation system
- Food and meat processing plants
- Car washes
- Food service operations that offer carbonated beverages
- Swimming pools
- Medical centers, nursing homes and assisted care facilities where medical care is provided
- Power generating plants
- Funeral homes and morgues

“The popularity and proliferation of irrigation systems puts them at the top of the list for backflow prevention,” explained **Diana Wilson**, general manager. “If proper backflow prevention isn't in place at the point of the cross connection, we could see contamination in the form of lawn chemicals, pet waste and other pollutants.”

State laws and codes as well as local ordinances require backflow prevention devices not only be

installed but also be tested annually by a state registered tester with the results forwarded to the Water Works.

“To ensure that our customers are in full compliance and current with their testing, we are enlisting the services of Backflow Solutions Inc. starting January 1, 2017,” Wilson added.



Irrigation systems require backflow prevention devices, which should be tested annually.

### ONLINE REPORTING AND TRACKING

BSI uses a web-based tracking program called **BSI Online**. BSI doesn't test backflow prevention assemblies; rather it manages and archives the results. WDMWW customers will receive letters from BSI, instructing them how to file testing results in the future.

All backflow device test results due after Jan. 1, 2017, must be submitted using **BSI Online**.

If you do not plan to use your lawn irrigation system, the requirement to test your backflow prevention device can be waived by filling out and returning a *Certification Not to Test Form*, which can be found on the WDMWW website.

The Iowa Department of Public Health maintains a list of registered backflow assembly testers that you can access at <http://idph.iowa.gov/ehs/backflow-prevention>. WDMWW employees cannot test backflow devices for customers.

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