



September 20, 2012 Newsletter

Update on Water Quality Issue

Dear neighbors,

I met with Mr. Roland Jackson of Parish Water Company in August just after the meeting at Kristenwood to discuss their effort to remedy the brown water issue in GeoJe's. We reviewed maps of the Water System and their sophisticated computer modeling program used to help manage the system and troubleshoot problems like we are experiencing. The map they gave me below shows the distribution system for GeoJe's subdivision.

GeoJe's can be fed from 3 source lines, one from Frenchtown, one from Forrest Glen and the newest from Oak Cluster. Within GeoJe's there are 4, 6 and 8" lines that parallel the streets with flush out (blow off) points at the ends of lines such as on Chaumont, Chevernt Chanove and Maison. The supply lines form some inner loops within the subdivision as the streets connect in loops. Strategically placed valves in the lines are used to direct or isolate sections of the system as needed to maintain or flush the system.

Brown water is caused by Iron and Manganese precipitates that build up in the distribution system over time. These elements are naturally occurring in water aquifers at very low concentrations. The water is routinely tested for these elements at the wells and based on the analysis a small amount of treatment chemical added to try and keep them in solution.

When changes occur such as new lines added, new wells, redirection of flows, etc. the iron and manganese solids in the distribution system can be disturbed and create brown water. The water company believes that this is what has occurred. Normally flushing of the lines where quality is an issue removes the solids and clears up the brown water.

When the Water Company began getting calls of water quality issues, they began flushing the specific lines where problems were reported. This did not resolve the issue, so they began in August flushing the entire system in GeoJe's once a week. The computer model was used to develop the flushing plan and insure all lines are flushed at a high velocity. Signs posted across the street at the entrance to GeoJe's announce that flushing will occur. Flushing is done after midnight, during a time of least use to minimize getting brown water into our homes. It is possible that during flushing some brown water could be pushed into the lines to our homes, which will usually shows up the next day following the flushing.

I met again with Mr. Jackson on Sept. 11th for an update. Their samples collected when flushing lines show marked improvement over the last six weeks in the quality relative to brown color, with most showing no color. The State required home sampling for lead and copper, including one from my home in GeoJe's is in progress. Samples from the supply wells feeding GeoJe's and the sample from my home showed no lead or copper present.

They will continue this weekly flushing until the water quality is back to normal. Please call the water company at 952-7688 when you experience any quality issues, even if it occurs the day following a flushing. This lets them know when and where there is still a problem and helps them to respond and resolve it in a timely manner.

One suggestion if the color appears to be with the hot water only: You may have to flush the hot water heater to remove the sediment trapped there before the water will clear up.

Jim Callender, Board President

