

**WATER from page 1A**

It was determined the bills were estimated since March 2021.

Staffing issues prevented an in-person meter reader. When meters were actually read last March, many customers' estimated usage was significantly lower than their actual usage.

This caused an outcry by locals who weren't financially prepared for such high water bills.

On Tuesday, the MWD board decided, by vote, that the following would be the policy going forward:

A 50% credit will be given to the month of February billing amount. This does not include amounts that were past due prior to February 2021.

The customer's 50% needs to be paid in full by Sept. 30 and the balance of the bill will need to be paid by Oct. 25. Disconnects

and late fees will resume on Nov. 1.

Sautner added, "Payment arrangements are possible, but the arrears balance will need to be paid by Dec. 20, with a disconnect date of Jan. 10, 2022."

Payment arrangements can be made by contacting the office at 541-268-4348.

In addition, those who already paid their February bill will be given a credit on future bills.

Newest MWD board member Millie Rochon mentioned that she was one who was affected by these large February bills, and agreed that though the bills would require payment arrangements for many residents. She said the community, as a whole, was looking for a resolution to the situation.

Schrenk agreed and mentioned that customers paying these bills was the only hope for having water service in Mapleton in the future.

All board members agreed that it was time to move forward.

Next, the board decided that the district could use some help in the office. They talked about letting the public know that they were looking to hire someone for eight hours a week, two four hour shifts, and that interested applicants should contact the office at the number listed above.

The board then discussed the bids that were received for a new water treatment plant. Temporarily, WesTech provides water treatment for Mapleton, but a permanent solution is needed. In the past, the board hired an advisor team of water engineers and the team had reviewed the bids for a new treatment plant.

This advisor team recommended the bid given by Filtertech Inc. This was lowest cost bid and also seemed to be the company that could best provide for

the water needs of the Mapleton community.

The board took a vote and the Filtertech bid was accepted unanimously.

This was done with the understanding that Filtertech was still working to get approval by the State of Oregon, this being their first foray into treating water in this state. Filtertech assured those who reviewed the bid that approval was inevitable.

The board thought the new treatment plant could be up and running by Spring 2022. The plant is paid for by a grant from the State of Oregon.

Next, Basurto showed the board the new smart meters that will be installed at all residences. These meters will ensure accurate measurement of water usage and, eventually, will allow usage to be measured remotely.

After this, Rochon updated the board on her and her daughter's progress

with painting the town's fire hydrants.

Basurto mentioned a plan to adopt a stretch of highway in the name of MWD. He mentioned the state will provide all the necessary tools and safety equipment. After two cleanings, an official sign will be installed.

Moore finished the meeting by mentioning he attended a wedding in Los Angeles recently.

"I drank some of the water down there. It was bad. I'm serious. We have good water here in Mapleton

and that's what we've got to keep our focus on, especially in these hard times.

We're very lucky that a lot of people put this much effort out again and again," he said.

The MWD Board of Directors meets on the third Wednesday of the month at the Mapleton Lion's Club Community Center. The next meeting will be Oct. 20.

Residents with questions or concerns can contact the MWD office at 541-268-4348.

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**JETTY from page 1A**

The project is addressing long-term instability on the road.

"Visitors should be aware of traffic from heavy equipment and other construction vehicles outside of the closure area, as debris continues to be removed and rocks and other equipment continue to get delivered," Holman added.

Local anglers and surfers have been unable to make their way to the surfing and fishing areas that are situated at the end of the South Jetty Road due to the construction. Both groups have pressed the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Forest Service to complete the project as soon as possible as the road is the only way into that part of the

dunes.

Visitors will continue to be able to use beach access points 1 to 5 and the South Jetty and Goose OHV staging areas for most of the construction period. However, the entire road will be closed for up to a week, likely in October.

For more information, visit [www.fs.usda.gov/rec-main/siuslaw/recreation](http://www.fs.usda.gov/rec-main/siuslaw/recreation).

**Last recycling event of the year scheduled**

The final EcoGeneration Recycling Take Back event for 2021 is scheduled for Sunday, Oct. 3, at the Siuslaw Middle School pavilion. All masking and COVID protocols will be adhered to.

The event starts at 11 a.m., with the first hour being designated for the elderly and disabled. Please note, there typically is a waiting line at the beginning of the event.

The general public is encouraged to bring their recyclables between noon and 2 p.m.

Over the past year, Florence residents have recycled almost 5,000 pounds of plastics at these events. EcoGeneration will continue to provide this service for the Florence community in 2022, so stay tuned for more details to be announced soon.

Also, this will be the very last Recycling Take Back Event where EcoGeneration will accept your caps and lids for free. These are lids without a resin code and are 6 inches in diameter or smaller. They will continue to accept all caps and lids that have resin codes in their corresponding plastic resin streams.

In the future, EcoGeneration plans to combine the cap stream with the \$20 Donation Brown Paper Bag collection since, as an organization, they have been paying to recycle this stream since its inception. People's donations will help to support this program in the future.

The EcoGeneration Recycling Take Back Events provide an opportunity for Florence residents and businesses to bring a variety of plastic recyclables for collection. All items must be clean, dry, label free and sorted by number and type.

The EcoGeneration website, [www.ecogeneration.org](http://www.ecogeneration.org), has all of the specific information regarding how to prepare your recyclables and what products are accepted. There will be a limited number of special Fast Passes for quicker processing at the event which can be purchased for \$35. You will need to sign up for a designated time by going to the website and reserving a drop off time.

If you have any additional questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Master Recycler Nancy Rhodes at [florence@ecogeneration.org](mailto:florence@ecogeneration.org).

**Submit your community, arts, entertainment and other events to**  
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BOTH MEETINGS ARE CURRENTLY ON HOLD.  
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• Tuesday Evening Group (2nd Tuesday) 5-7 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant  
• Urologist Dr. Bryan Mehlfahl attends.  
• Tuesday Lunch Group (3rd Tuesday) 12 noon - 1:00 p.m. - Ichiban Chinese/Japanese Restaurant  
• Urologist Dr. Roger McKimmy attends.  
Contact Bob for more information:  
(H) 541-997-6626 • (C) 541-999-4239  
[maribob@oregonjust.net](mailto:maribob@oregonjust.net)

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