

FRUITLAND MUTUAL WATER COMPAY FALL NEWSLETTER



 American Water Works Association
Pacific Northwest Section

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

www.fruitlandwater.com

Check our website for updates and latest information.

****Updated Bylaws are available on our website for viewing****

ADUs: If you are planning to add an ADU to your property be sure and contact the office for information regarding adding units to your property.

For those struggling to pay utility bills there is information on local assistance agencies who can help with utility payments.



TO THE MEMBERS OF THE FRUITLAND MUTUAL WATER COMPANY:

Each year, Fruitland Mutual Water Co. members elect several Board of Directors from a slate of candidates. The nominees may be new or existing Board Members seeking re-election. If you would like to serve on the board of Fruitland Mutual Water Co., or have a candidate to nominate, please send the candidate's name to our office. We have one vacancy on the board currently.

Eligible candidates must be members of Fruitland Mutual Water Co. in good standing to qualify for consideration. Prior to submitting a nomination, it is required for the candidate's permission to be granted, along with the signature of two additional Fruitland members for validation. Please include a brief biography and qualifications of the nominee. For the preparation of the ballot, please submit your nominations as early as possible. All nominations must be received at the company office (4001 9th St SW) no later than **4:30pm on January 6, 2026.**

REMEMBER TO WINTERIZE:

As the chilly winter months approach, it is essential to protect your plumbing system from freezing temperatures. To prevent costly repairs, consider these simple steps: insulate exposed pipes, let faucets drip a little during extreme cold, disconnect hoses from outdoor spigots, and maintain your home's temperature at a steady level, ideally around 55°F or higher, to prevent pipes from freezing. By taking these precautions, you can help ensure your plumbing system remains frost-free and trouble-free throughout the winter season.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: BRANDON LINCOLN

Fruitland Water is excited to announce a well-deserved promotion! Brandon Lincoln has been named our newest Backflow Assembly Tester. Brandon first joined the team in August of 2022 as a Water Service Technician. In his three years in the field, he has become a truly invaluable member of our crew. He has already started excelling in his new role.

When he's not on the job, Brandon is an avid outdoorsman and musician. You might catch him exploring national parks for a hike or even drumming along to a song in his truck. We're confident you'll find him to be just as helpful and reliable as we do!

**** Up to date contact information is of utmost importance, please be sure to notify us if you have a change in information. Did your payment method expire recently? Call us to update. ****

LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY:

The company's Lead Service Line Inventory program is a living document, that is updated constantly throughout the year. The company has to report the updated inventory annually to the Department of Health. As the company's crew updates service lines in the system, it is updated in the inventory. If you update your service line from the water meter to the house, please notify the company so we can keep accurate records of both sides. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact Jasmyn Sisco. You can call the office at 253-848-5519 and ask for her or send her a direct email at jasmyn@fruitlandwater.com. Thank you for your help and cooperation in getting this inventory completed, and for the continued support in keeping it updated.

A WORD FROM OUR GENERAL MANAGER:

Dear Members,

Fruitland Mutual Water is near completion on updating its Water System Plan. These plans are updated every ten years as required by the State Department of Health. The plans document growth management, financial stability, water conservation, water rights, and infrastructure needs. While under current building code Fruitland Water has enough supply for build out, however water is not an infinite supply, and the company needs your continued support in conservation.

PFAS: Per - and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large, complex group of synthetic chemicals that have been used in consumer products around the world since about the 1950s. Scientific studies have shown that exposure to some PFAS in the environment is linked to harmful health effects in humans and animals. The company has been sampling for these chemicals as required at the federal and state levels, for the last few years. The two rounds of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule the company realized out of the five wells tested one reached the 4.0 parts per trillion level that the State of Washington has settled on as the maximum level. Since the company has done four rounds required by Washington State Department of Health and none have reached the 4 parts per trillion level. The company has one more round of sampling to go in October 2025 for the state, and that will establish a base line if treatment is required. More information can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained>.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has established that all galvanized services need replacing within the next 10 years, with some exemptions of the system has 39 or more per 1000 to replace, then an exemption can be granted for more time. Fruitland Water has not used "leaded goose necks" in the past, that was more common from 1900 to the 1920's, Fruitland Water started in 1946. The company has identified 774 galvanized lines that will be scheduled for replacement. This summer the crew replaced 30 galvanized services along with 3000' of water main this summer on 80th AVE. In 2026 with efforts from the crew and contracting work out, the company expects to get about 150 done. The use of galvanized service line was replaced in the mid 80's using more PVC or Poly type piping. If your home was built prior to it might be a good idea to verify it, if you have concerns. The galvanized pipe itself does not have lead, but it is in the zinc coating around the outside. So, as the pipe deteriorates and leaks begin there is some opportunity for contact with the zinc coating. The company staff and Board of Directors has made this one of its highest priorities and intend to beat the 10-year deadline. Look for updates in future newsletters and on the website.



Ted Hardiman, General Manager