



Fruitland Mutual Water Company



Spring 2026 Newsletter

Water Quality Improvements & Other Work

Fruitland Water is continuing ongoing maintenance and infrastructure upgrades. You may notice our field crew performing various tasks to improve water delivery to your homes and businesses. We make every effort to contact affected customers in advance. However, during emergencies, time constraints may prevent prior notification. Our goal is always to complete projects with minimal service disruption.

We are developing a schedule for galvanized line replacements on the company's side of the meter. We will update customers once the schedule is finalized and work begins. Please contact our office with any questions.

Our field crew is performing system-wide maintenance, including meter clearing, fire hydrant maintenance, and valve exercising. If you have concerns about specific vegetation on



Main office

your property, please inform us so we can be aware before our crew arrives. You may occasionally see crew members flushing water mains throughout the system, which causes water to flow and drain. This is a normal part of maintaining clean water mains.

Unfortunately, leaks do occur throughout our service area, and we rely on our customers to report suspected leaks. To report a leak, please call our office or email us at:

customerservice@fruitlandwater.com



Notice of Rate Increase

At the January 12th 2026, meeting, the board of directors approved a standard adjustment to the company's rates. As of April 15th, 2026, there will be a 3% increase and an increase of 3% on January 1st, 2027.

- An average residential water bill in 2025 for two-months: \$75.75
- April 15th increase will add \$2.27 to an average two-month bill: \$78.02
- January 1st increase will add \$2.34 to an average two-month bill: \$80.36

Informational: **HB1707/SB5088** bills are proposed to allow counties to tax utilities within their prospective county. Here is the bill as currently written: <https://lawfilesextract.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2025-26/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/1702-S.pdf?g=20260112121353>

SPRING IS COMING!

One Inch Per Week

Typically, in the South Hill area, one inch per week maintains a healthy lawn.

Consider these tips to prep for warm weather:

- Set irrigation to timers
- Inspect irrigation lines for damage
- Water early or late in the day to limit water loss from evaporation
- Water root areas of your plants only
- Place a layer of mulch around plants to avoid excess evaporation.
- Water on an every other day basis to conserve water.

FMWC's New Additions & Work:

- Fruitland Heights (10700 Fruitland Ave) - completed
- Fruitwood Overlook (87 block Fruitland Ave) - upcoming
- Bradley Heights Apartments (27th & Meridian) - ongoing
- Infrastructure replacement (80th Ave E) - ongoing
- 20,000 Feet AC Main replacement (throughout system) - upcoming

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Maps for AC Main Replacement



Square Footage Fees

Membership entitles you to receive water service from Fruitland Mutual Water Company. The membership fee applies to the first 2,000 square feet of enclosed, roofed, or covered area of structures on your property. Any area above 2,000 square feet or additional structures on the same property will be subjected to the \$2.50 per square foot assessment. If a building permit is required, the permit will provide the square footage on which the assessment will be based. The square footage policy has been in effect since 1983 and is set forth in the bylaws of the Fruitland Mutual Water Company. If you have questions or would like a copy of the bylaws, please feel free to call the office or visit our website.

Cross Connection Control

Remember that modifying or adding connections to your private water lines may require the installation of a backflow assembly. Examples include sprinkler systems, fire suppression systems, pools, hot tubs, or decorative ponds directly connected to your private water line. If you have any questions about which plumbing changes require a backflow assembly, please contact our office, and the company's backflow program manager will assist you.



Congratulations!

Fruitland is pleased to welcome Ronda Farmer to the Board of Directors. Thank you for stepping up to fill the vacant position; we look forward to working with you.

We also want to congratulate Jeff Bingaman on his election as Vice President. Jeff has been a hardworking member of the board for several years, and we thank him for his continued dedication and efforts.

Finally, we extend our gratitude to Marlin Horeis, who has stepped down from the board. Marlin served Fruitland Mutual Water Company for many years, and we sincerely thank him for his time and commitment to our community.



Henry, our staff's favorite coworker

From the General Manager

As warmer months approach, we encourage customers to inspect irrigation lines for damage sustained during the off-season. Proactive checks help prevent the high water bills often caused by summer leaks.

In 2025, our team completed 806 work orders, ranging from meter box repairs to final readings. We will continue our diligent maintenance of hydrants, valves, and leaks. Furthermore, we have implemented a program to ensure every fire hydrant is tested for proper operation at least once every three years.

Looking ahead through 2026, Fruitland Water remains committed to ongoing infrastructure replacement to ensure a secure and reliable water supply. Our water rights and capacity to meet domestic and fire protection demands remain strong, providing a solid foundation for growth under current regulations.

Best Regards,

Ted Hardiman