



Director's Update to the BOWC

July 18, 2018

- The heat wave has increased the number of water main breaks this summer – 161 breaks in July already.
 - Whenever there is a dramatic shift in the temperature – either hot or cold – it puts pressure on our water mains especially the aging infrastructure.
 - DWSD has used news media interviews about the water main breaks as an opportunity to educate the public on its \$500 million, five-year capital improvement program.
- The water main replacements going forward, including the project which recently began on Mansfield between Fenkell and Florence, will include the option for existing lead service lines to be replaced.
 - Public Affairs is working with the Lead Team on customer outreach: Door-to-door, block club meetings, targeted social media and phone calls.
 - All water utilities in Michigan are now required under the revised Lead & Copper Rule to make every effort to replace the lead service lines.
 - If a homeowner declines, it is DWSD's duty to inform the residents of the risk.
 - Currently DWSD is paying for the replacements as part of a pilot program, but funding mechanisms will need to be determined in the future.
- The department is leveraging its partnerships to increase the number – and allow more time for promotion – of water assistance fairs in the neighborhoods.
 - Over the next two months, DABO, Pure Word Missionary Baptist Church, Christ Love Tabernacle Missionary Baptist Church, Historic Little Rock Baptist Church, Pilgrim Baptist Church and Second Ebenezer Church will host water assistance events.
- The WAVE Fund (Water Access Volunteer Effort) golf outing is on Monday, July 23 at Western Golf & Country Club.
 - The outing this year posthumously honor former Board of Water Commissioner and WAVE founding donor, William Westrick.
 - This annual fundraiser benefits residents who do not qualify for WRAP and have difficulty entering a payment arrangement – WAVE helps with the deposit.
 - WAVE dollars are used to help customers at the assistance fairs with community partners.