

Vol. 2, No. 4, November 2023



Holiday Schedules

Thanksgiving Schedule

Convenience Centers will be closed on 11/23 and 11/24

Trash and recycling will not be collected on 11/23 and will instead be delayed one day, extending into Saturday

Christmas Schedule

Convenience Centers will be closed on 12/23 & 12/26

Trash and recycling will not be collected on 12/25 and will instead be delayed one day, extending into Saturday

New Years Schedule

What's In Your Pipes?

We take our responsibility to protect customers from lead exposure and other contaminants seriously. With recent revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule, we want to take some time to talk about what this means for you and for our community. First and foremost, Nashville does not have a lead problem.

Nashville's drinking water does not contain lead when it leaves the treatment plants but without proper treatment, tap water can accumulate trace amounts of lead through the corrosion of plumbing materials containing lead. MWS' lead program includes the addition of a blended ortho/poly phosphate solution to the water to prevent the possible leaching of lead from pipes, [lead monitoring](#), and community education.

In January 2021, the EPA issued revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule. In response to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, we expanded our existing lead program and created the P.I.P.E. Program. Learn more by about it by clicking [here](#).

Trash and recycling will not be collected on 1/1 and will instead be delayed one day, extending into Saturday

Out with Old, In with the New

The newly constructed 8th Ave Reservoir tank (west side) was placed into service on August 16, 2023 and on September 12, 2023, the original 8th Ave Reservoir was permanently disconnected from water system as we prepare to construct a new tank in the east side of the reservoir.



The 8th Avenue Reservoir is not only our oldest reservoir but also our largest, making it an important part of our history and water system. The reservoir,



With this revision, water systems are required to prepare and maintain an inventory of service line materials. This inventory must include the public and private portion of the service line. Because the property owner—not MWS—owns the water service line from the meter to the home, the records on what this portion is made of may not exist or may be old and inaccurate.

We are asking residents to please complete this [service line inventory survey](#) to help us document the material of your service line. Need guidance? Watch [this video](#) to help you locate your service line and determine the pipe material.

Let's Show Our Toilets Some Love

Day after day, our toilets put up with a lot of crap. Most days, they do this with no appreciation! But not on November 19th.

Every year, on November 19th, we celebrate World Toilet Day. Toilets are a part of the bigger picture when it comes to the world's standards of sanitization. Did you know that 419 million people in the world still practice "open defecation"? In these situations, diseases spread, killing 1,000 children under-five every single day. This global crisis poses a threat to nature and everyone's health, particularly women, girls, and other vulnerable groups.

originally constructed in 1889, was divided into 2 compartments, each having a capacity of 25.5 million gallons.

To enhance and protect water quality in our system and maintain the historic structure, we began an innovative project to build a new reservoir within the historic reservoir in 2021. The historic walls will remain in place, preserving the Nashville's history but will no longer have to support the weight of the water. The tank-in-tank design of 2 separate concrete tanks (west side and east side) will provide 35 million gallons of storage once complete, ensuring proper water turnover. Additionally, baffling of the tanks will allow for water to move evenly through this large reservoir, maintaining water quality.

Learn more about the 8th Ave Reservoir project by visiting historic8thavenuereservoir.com.

World Toilet Day is a day to be thankful for our toilets and take action however we can, whether that's educating yourself or others. Visit worldtoiletday.info to learn more about the worldwide campaign and what you can do.

PFAS-What You Need to Know about the "Forever Chemicals"

You may have heard about PFAS in the news recently, but what are they? Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large and diverse group of man-made chemicals that have a widespread presence in our environment. These chemicals have unique properties, such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation, and non-stick characteristics and were widely used to make carpets, fabric, food packaging and other products resistant to water, grease, or stains. It can be found in clothing, food packaging, non-stick cookware, shampoos and other items used daily. They are known as "forever chemicals" because they linger in humans and the environment.

As a utility that goes above and beyond to ensure you can trust your tap, MWS began voluntarily testing for these compounds in 2015. Tests on drinking water leaving our treatment plants conducted in 2015, 2019, and again in 2021 found no reportable levels or minute levels of PFAS, well below the previous 70 parts per trillion (PPT) advisory value released in 2016. Our latest testing was done in August 2022 and results of that analysis were non- detect.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the first national primary drinking water standards for six PFAS on March 14, 2023. **MWS is pleased to report that, through voluntary analysis,**



Tip of the Quarter

Did you know wrapping paper can't be recycled? Instead, wrap your gifts in a recyclable material like newspaper, paper bags, or old maps!

Be a TN Smart Yard!

MWS is promoting [Smart Yards](#) to help keep our land and water healthy, one yard at a time!

our water meets the proposed drinking water standards.

Unfortunately, the burden for keeping these compounds away from consumers has been placed on drinking water treatment operations when it should be placed on the manufacturers – PFAS use should be eliminated, and the manufacturers should be responsible for research and elimination of the substances.

We will continue to follow studies and research to help us develop strategies to remain in compliance and reduce levels of PFAS in drinking water and biosolids. Learn more on our website [here](#).

Getting Ready for the Holidays? Keep These Tips in Mind!



Don't throw out that pumpkin!

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, close to 2 billion pounds of pumpkins are grown each year for Halloween and end up in our landfills where they produce harmful greenhouse gases. This year, reduce your Jack-o'-lantern waste.

- Roast the pumpkin seeds for a healthy snack.
- Bake pumpkin bread, pumpkin pie, or throw your scraps into a curry.
- Save your uncarved pumpkins for Thanksgiving decorations. Uncarved pumpkins can last up to 12 weeks before they start to rot.

Compost the rest! Take your pumpkins to one of our [Convenience Centers](#) for free composting.

Just a Reminder

Water and sewer rates increase 3% on January 1st, 2024. We are proud to deliver 2 gallons of safe, clean, and reliable water to our customers for just one cent, on average, and will continue to do so in 2024!

Get Ahead of Flu Season

Flu season will be here soon, and getting your flu shot now is a great way to prepare yourself!

Flu shots are available by appointment at Metro Public Health Department clinics free of charge. Clinics in East Nashville, Woodbine and at the Lentz Public Health Center at 2500 Charlotte have appointments for flu shots available Monday-Friday during their regular business hours.

Zero Waste your Thanksgiving

The NRDC calls Thanksgiving one of the most wasteful times of year, with 200 million pounds of turkey wasted each year. Before the meal, have guests RSVP to help plan your portions. While cooking, save veggie scraps and bones to make broth and compost the rest. After the meal, send the guests home with leftovers, freeze additional leftovers, and donate unopened canned good!

Don't Forget about FOG!

Fats, oils, and grease are plentiful around the holidays, but how are you supposed to dispose of them properly?

When added to compost, FOGs can create unwanted odors and attract critters and pests to your compost pile. Not only that, but adding cooking oil to your compost may actually slow down the composition process!

Try instead, bringing your fats, oils, and grease to Omohundro, East and Ezell Convenience Centers for oil recycling. If you want to get creative in the kitchen, you can even save your grease for future cooking! Simply store it in a container in your fridge and use it again to flavor your meals.

Driven Down 3rd Avenue N. Lately?

If you have, you may have noticed! We recently upgraded Nashville's largest Water Reclamation Facility, Central WRF, to increase capacity, reduce combined sewer overflows, improve energy efficiency, and make the facility more operator friendly. These improvements play a vital role in the Clean Water Overflow Abatement Program.

Apply to Work with Us!

MWS is always looking for passionate people looking to make a positive impact to join our team. If you or someone you know is looking for the next step in your career, look no further! Learn more about our current opportunities [here](#).

Contact Us

Water, Sewer, & Stormwater

nashville.gov/water

(615) 862-4600

1700 3rd Ave N,
Nashville, TN 37208

—

Waste Services

(615) 862-5000 | 311

For those that don't know, this MWS program is led in coordination with the EPA and TDEC for the purpose of meeting the Clean Water Act and, in the process, ensuring the environmental health of the Cumberland River and its tributaries for future generations.

This project consisted of upgrading the Central Pump Station, building the new 440 MGD Headworks facility (as seen from 3rd Avenue N.), conversion to fine bubble aeration, the completion of the new ultraviolet disinfection facility, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. To learn more, you can visit [the CWN project page](#).

Why stop there? Understand the whole project better and see it for yourself with [this video](#) created by our project contractors, Brown and Caldwell. In the video, they lay out project details, take you through Nashville's largest Water Reclamation Facility, and introduce you to some of the incredible people behind the Central Improvements Project.



The holiday season is right around the corner, and we have the perfect gift for your home and garden! The MWS Rain Barrel Sale will be open December 4th through March 10th for Davidson County residents to purchase up to two rain barrels for \$52 each. There are only 1,000 subsidized barrels, so mark your calendars, or join the waitlist [here](#) for first access when the sale goes live!

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Requests](#)

This is **your** newsletter!
What would you like to
read more about? Let us
know [here](#).

Follow our ongoing projects!

Click [here](#) to check out
our ongoing
projects. We appreciate
your patience as we
perform regular
maintenance and repair
to our infrastructure!

Did you know?

Our website can be
translated into more than
65 different languages
by clicking the
translation tab on the



Did you see us at your
local farmers market
this season?
Stormwater and Zero
Waste cohosted booths
all over Nashville to
educate about our
favorite topics,
[protecting water](#) and

[reducing waste](#).

We love sharing sustainable practices with our
community, so let us know more about your 2023
farmers market experiences by [filling out this form](#)!



TN Smart Yards promotes
sustainable landscaping
and clean water, one yard
at time. Certified yards in

Davidson Co. receive a free metal yard sign, a free
bag of Music City Gold fertilizer from MWS, and a free
tree from Root Nashville! Check out this month's
[community newsletter](#).

The MWS Urban Forestry team supported a volunteer
tree planting project with the Nashville Tree
Foundation on October 4th. The volunteers planted 35
trees along Murphy Road between Nebraska Avenue
and 37th Avenue North.

Trees provide vital services to our city by cleaning our
air and water, and they help keep our city cool! Visit
rootnashville.org to learn more about how MWS teams
up with tree advocates to plant 500,000 by 2050.

header of the
Nashville.gov website!



Join us!

MWS holds monthly Facebook Live events with our Director, Scott Potter, providing viewers an opportunity to get a glimpse inside many of our facilities and learn more about our processes. Follow us on Facebook for notifications! If you are unable to join us live, you can also watch all past events on our [Facebook page](#).

Join us for a tour of one of our facilities! Learn more about the water you drink or the water you're sending back our way. We offer both adult and student tours of our KR Harrington Water Treatment Plant as well as our Whites Creek Water Reclamation Facility. [Learn more](#) about these tours or [schedule one today](#).



Do you have any friends, family, or neighbors who you think would be interested in receiving this quarterly update? Send them to [this link](#) or have them email us to join the list at MWSCommunications@groups.Nashville.gov

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