



In This Issue...

- 💧 **House Bill 1565**
- 💧 **Discount Programs**
- 💧 **County Smoke Detector Program**
- 💧 **In Depth Focus:
New Water Rates!
(p.2)**

WATER FACTOID:

💧 More than 75% of BexarMet residential customers use less than 10,000 gallons of water per month.

Helpful Phone Numbers:

Customer Service:
(210) 354-6500

Emergency Services:
(210) 354-6500

BexarMet Website:
www.bexarmet.org

May Holidays:
28 – Memorial Day

House Bill 1565: It's Impact on the Future of Your Water Service and Voting Rights

On April 4, 2007, the Texas House of Representatives voted to pass House Bill 1565, which, if signed into law, would abolish the current BexarMet Board and replace it with a Board composed of the Bexar County Commissioner's Court, the Mayor of San Antonio, and the County Judges from Medina, Atascosa and Comal counties. One consequence of this bill is that all BexarMet customers outside of Bexar County will lose their right to vote for Board members. Furthermore, your water service will be turned over to the troubled San Antonio Water System. The bill has been sent to the Senate Natural Resources committee and may be debated and voted upon sometime in May. If the Senate passes a version of House Bill 1565, it must be sent to the Governor and be signed into law. After that, the state must submit the new law to the U.S. Department of Justice for pre-clearance due to the bill's negative impact on customers' voting rights. If the bill becomes law, it will take effect September 1, 2007. We urge you to contact your state Senator and ask him or her to vote against House Bill 1565 to preserve your water district.

BexarMet Discount Programs

Did you know that BexarMet offers special discount programs for seniors and the disabled? If you are age 60 years or older, disabled, or a disabled American Veteran AND meet the income level guidelines established by the Federal government, you may be eligible to participate in the BexarMet Discount Program. If you meet these criteria, you will need to be certified through the City of San Antonio Department of Community Initiatives (DCI) office. There are DCI offices located throughout San Antonio. Once certified, you will receive a discount of \$2.00 on your water bill each month and will be required to recertify each year with the DCI office. For more information, contact BexarMet Customer Service at (210) 354-6500.

Operation Install: County Smoke Detector Program

If you are age 60 years or older and live within Bexar County, you can have a smoke detector installed **for free** in your home. For more information on this program, call the United Way's 2-1-1 hotline or the City's Senior Services Division office at (210) 207-7172 to apply. You may also apply online at www.sanantonio.gov/comminit, www.sanantonio.gov/safd, or www.unitedwaysatx.org. Remember to change your smoke detector batteries every spring and fall!



In Depth Focus:

New Lower Water Rates for BexarMet Customers!

BexarMet customers have something to look forward to in their June 2007 water bills: **lower water rates and fees!** Several months ago, BexarMet hired an outside consultant firm from Denver to assess and overhaul the current rate structure while making sure the revenues from any new water rates continued to cover debt service, operating costs and maintenance costs. On April 23, 2007, the BexarMet Board approved the new rate and fee structure, signaling the Board's continued dedication to serving customers and making sure the District continues to fulfill its duties. The new water rate plan also consolidates the current system of four rate groups into one single rate group that encompasses all customers across the District. Water use tiers have also been reallocated into more consistent consumption levels to emphasize the importance of conservation and efficient water use.

Under the new rate structure, all BexarMet customers with an average consumption of less than 10,000 gallons per month will see a reduction in their water bills...that's over 75% of the current residential customer base! The estimated 25% of remaining BexarMet residential customers with average consumption greater than 10,000 gallons may see an increase in their water bill due to the increased rates in the upper two consumption tiers.

Because BexarMet operated under four different rate groups in the past, there is not enough room to make a direct comparison for each former rate group here in the newsletter. There is a complete group-by-group comparison for selected water consumption levels using the old and new water rates on the BexarMet website. Go to <http://www.bexarmet.org/ratecomparison.htm> and see for yourself! For more information on the rate changes in your area, contact BexarMet Customer Service at (210) 354-6500.

Other changes in the rate study involve the Capacity Reservation Fee and the System Improvement Fee. Under the old system, both of these fees were constant and based on the size of the water meter. With the new rate structure approved by the Board, the Capacity Reservation Fee has been dramatically reduced, but continues to be based on meter size while the System Improvement Fee, on the other hand, will be calculated for residential and commercial customers at a volumetric rate of \$1.51 per 1,000 gallons instead of being based on meter size.

New Residential Rates	
Monthly Consumption (gals)	New Rate (\$/1000 gallons)
0 to 7,000	\$0.85
7,001 to 10,000	\$1.25
10,001 to 17,000	\$3.40
Over 17,000	\$5.44

New Commercial Rates	
Monthly Consumption (gals)	New Rate (\$/1000 gallons)
0 to 25,000	\$1.22
25,001 to 150,000	\$2.07
Over 150,000	\$5.21