

## **Sustainability through Smart Water Planning, Use and Growth**

In the United States, we have easy access to some of the safest treated water in the world, just by turning on the faucet or tap in our homes. Each day we shower, wash dishes, brush our teeth, drink coffee and consume water in many other uses, often without knowing we are doing so.

Obviously, water is an important part of our daily lives and we use it for a wide variety of purposes. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports, that on average each family uses more than 300 gallons of water per day at home, and nearly 70 percent of this use occurs indoors with 27% used in toilets, 22% in clothes washers, 17% in showers, 16% in faucet use, nearly 14% in leaks, and over 5% of indoor use is consumed by other means. Typically, our outdoor water use accounts for approximately 30 percent of household water use, and in our arid climate of Colorado with water-intensive landscape, some homes often use more and up to as much as 70 percent of indoor use. Also the EPA conducted surveys on the nations aging water facilities that support the indoor and outdoor community household water usage, focusing on potential repairs and upgrades, the survey results show an investment need through the year 2030 of approximately \$384 billion nationwide for water system repairs and facility improvements.

The Stonegate Village Metropolitan District has similar challenges and requirements for maintaining water and wastewater systems and facilities. SVMD maintains and operates a Water and Sewer Capital Projects Fund, for re-engineering, construction and continued improvements to the District's facilities, and is constantly planning for additional improvements for sustaining the District services into the future. With any capital project, there are financial costs and requirements to consider, especially when some of the necessary improvements for sustaining water and sewer may exceed annual budgets. Obviously, the result may include a rise in service rates, but this burden is much lower and less costly than waiting for a system failure. Thankfully, the District has been planning ahead for years, and reviews and plans for a variety of funding options and directions it can take to help alleviate immediate high-cost financial burden to the District residents and businesses. "Our goal is and has always been to find and implement the best options, focusing on the most cost effective as well as efficient water and wastewater sustainable solutions for our District," says Norman Shaw, District President and Board Member.

SVMD is constantly planning and focusing on making better strategic and operational decisions for a flourishing, economical and sustainable future for the District. As part of this, the Stonegate Village Metropolitan District recently filled two board member vacancies for the District Board of Directors. One of the newly appointed SVMD Directors is Lisa Hyvonen, a long time resident of Stonegate and has enjoyed living within the District for over 11 years. "Like most residents of Stonegate, my family and I truly enjoy the wonderful greenbelts, parks and recreation facilities our District operates. I am very passionate toward maintaining the finer aspects and amenities of our District. Attention to our neighborhood resources not only makes for an attractive community, but helps support maintaining our property values", says Lisa Hyvonen, District Board Member. Additionally, Director Hyvonen brings over 20 years of professional experience in commercial business and marketing including a background in consumer goods, distribution, warehouse management, and community fundraising. Additionally, the SVMD appointed Steve Williams to the District Board of Directors. Steve Williams and his family have been residents of the District for over 16 years. "We really like the many benefits Stonegate offers, and feel that it's one of the premiere neighborhood communities in the South Metro Area. Additionally, unlike many other communities, our District owns and operates many of it's own utilities, resources and services, and I look forward to supporting the District's valuable attention to our water resources and infrastructure", says Steve Williams, District Board Member. Steve Williams is a retired military pilot and now a business owner within Colorado, bringing over 20 professional commercial

business experience in operations and marketing with a comprehensive background in airport management, facilities management, municipal agency relations, media services and non-profit support.

The Stonegate Village Metropolitan District is an independent entity, a separate organization from the Stonegate Homeowners Association. The District's Board of Directors and its management company oversee the care, operations and maintenance of four important services for its residents and commercial businesses, which include recreational facilities, open space and public landscapes, water and wastewater resources, and drainage-way maintenance. For more information on Stonegate Village Metropolitan District, and on the many other District projects and programs supporting the community, please visit the District website at [www.svmd.org](http://www.svmd.org), or call 303-858-9909, and or mail us at Stonegate Village Metropolitan District, 2 Inverness Drive East, Suite 200, Englewood, CO 80112.