

Wally Trabing's

Mostly about People



Reading Your Water Meter

Being fraught with drought ought not to tout bouts with doubt.

Nay.

While water rationing is now a reality, a communication has been hurried forth stating that there is a method of keeping posted on your water use.

It is called, Reading The Water Meter.

There are more than several problems involved, not a few of which will make grown men bawl.

In the first place, a large segment of the population will be unable to take advantage of this method. I speak of those whose first name is John. It is a well known fact in America that Johnny can't read.

For the rest of us, we must ask the question: Should a gentleman or lady read a water meter? I suppose during times of community emergency, it might be considered one's patriotic duty. Heaven knows there's been a dearth of it since the politicians stopped the last war.

When I first read our meter, my calculations indicated happily that we were not using ANY WATER AT ALL!

This was because I was reading the gas meter.

To read water, you go public and there are several obstacles to conquer.

The first is learning how to hunker down. Water meters are sunk into the front sidewalks in most cases, in sort of a sarcophagus befitting a miniature King Tut.

I hadn't hunkered down in years. Cowboys do it when they drink coffee and poke cooking fires with sticks.

It took me half an hour to pry the heavy cement lid off. Another hour and I could have qualified for a government grant. And some auto insurance, too, for I almost had to call the three A's to unhunker me.

The actual meter is buried under several eons of soil and some knowledge of archaeology will help here, for when you finally strike the object and clear the surface, there is a thrilling moment when you are not sure whether you have come across a new segment of the Dead Sea Scrolls or a meter—the hieroglyphics being amazingly similar.

In the meantime, there is some danger.

Your head is down in the tomb and your rump is protruding out into the street. The sight of this alone is enough to cause a fainty kind of auto accident.

Even a rear ender.

In my case, four drivers reported an Unidentified Object to the police.

Now, understanding the meter is not all that difficult if you are familiar at all with the instrument panels of a 747. If any of the pointers are at zero, you know you have crashed!

Seriously, here is how you calculate your water usage.

1. Obtain the numbers from the dial faces.
2. Total them and subtract your age. If you do not know it, think of a number from 1 to 100.
3. This will undoubtedly leave a number that will shock you, so phone your psychiatrist and have him pick a total more acceptable to your inner strength.
4. For the final solution, go back to bed until all this leaves your mind.

This will improve your disposition and you will find happiness.

LO Candidates Forum Tonight

A Candidate's Night will be held tonight for the five candidates vying for four seats on the Live Oak Elementary School District board of trustees.

The public is encouraged to attend the session, to be held in

the Live Oak School cafeteria at 7:30 p.m., at which time candidates Pauline Poen, John Ritter, John Brissendent, Bernard Bricmont and Ellen Gruys will present their views. Free refreshments will be served at the forum, which is expected to go until 9:30 p.m.

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SV Continues Sewer Hold

By DENISE SIEBENTHAL
Sentinel Staff Writer

Scotts Valley's hold on all sewer connection requests was continued Wednesday night by the city council for 30 days. The only exception to the hold, the council ruled, would be for failing septic systems.

The hold, in effect since Feb. 2, was continued to give the city staff time to update the 1973 schedule of sewer connections, to determine the sewer capacity needed to serve failing septic systems, and to prepare a report on standby fees.

Standby fees, it has been suggested, would be charged to those who are on septic systems, but who have reserved capacity for sewage at the city's treatment plant, City Manager Phil Hale explained.

In the unanimous move to continue the hold, the council also established a policy to reserve capacity at the sewage treatment plant for the Hacienda Acres and Granite Creek South areas.

The suggestion to continue the hold until these studies were done came after a meeting between city officials and two representatives of the State Water Quality Control Board last week.

The meeting was held because the city faces a situation where it may not have enough capacity at its sewage treatment plant to handle the existing development in areas that the state has mandated be served by sewers.

These priority areas were mandated as a condition of the grant the city received from the state for construction of its sewage treatment plant.

Hale estimated that out of a total capacity of about 480,000 gallons per day (gpd), the city only has 175,000 gpd to allocate. If all the priority areas hooked up at once to sewers, Hale figured, the city would experience a deficit of 120,700 gpd.

This lack of sewer capacity may have been caused by the city underestimating how much sewage an average family produced daily or by the city hooking up new development at the expense of existing development, Hale indicated earlier.

"All this (the studies called for by the council) would determine how much capacity is remaining and what we can do with it or who we can serve," Hale said.

In another matter at Wednesday's meeting, the council unanimously approved Community Services Director John Crivello's suggestion that the city apply for CETA Title

VI funding for two water reclamation projects.

Crivello explained that some \$800,000 out of \$1.3 million in funds is available to local city governments. He said that the CETA funds would pay for the personnel needed for the projects and for 5 per cent of the total salaries paid would be allocated toward the projects' costs.

One project would be to extend the water reclamation line from Scotts Valley Junior High School to Erba Lane to irrigate the Errington Park site and the city hall complex site.

This project could cost the city up to \$20,000, Crivello added, for the cost of the pipe and materials.

The other project would be to remove trash and debris from Carbonera Creek. This would cost the city a minimal amount, he added.

Another additional cost to the city would be for a supplement to the lead man's salary.

In other matters:

GENERAL PLAN - The council unanimously gave final approval to a contract with William Spangle and Associates of Portola Valley to draw up a revised general plan.

SANCHEZ TRAILER - The council denied Francisco and Rosamelia Sanchez' request for a rehearing of their appeal of the planning commission's decision to deny them a use permit for a temporary mobile home at 108 Burlwood Drive.

With residents reporting that the disputed mobile home had been removed Wednesday from the residential lot, City Attorney Gary Giannini said the question of the mobile home is moot. He added that the council has no jurisdiction to rehear an appeal.

SILVA - The council unanimously approved a rezoning from C-3-D (commercial) to C-2-D (community commercial) for John Silva's property on the south side of Scotts Valley Drive across from Camp Evers Lane. Silva needed the rezoning to put a clothing store on the site.

PARKS AND REC BUDGET - The council agreed unanimously that the Parks and Recreation Budget be allocated \$864 to pay back taxes on the Lodato Park property. The tax bill resulted during the period from when the property was donated to the city in July, 1974, to when the city annexed the property in May, 1975.

CONTINUED - Norman Geig's requests for a two-lot subdivision of about 20,000 square feet in the R-1-10 zone (single family residential, minimum lot 10,000 square feet) was continued to April 5 at the