



UP THE CREEK

March 1, 2017

You are warned that this newsletter contains nothing but actual *news*. If you are scanning down the page looking for made-up words or such typical ridiculae, forget it. Instead, we are dutifully informing you of the activities of your Association, as a newsletter is supposed to do.

March is the traditional time of spring flushing, when we clean the winter's accumulation of rust and sediment out of our pipes. This is accomplished by opening fire hydrants or flush valves around the system and, well, creating a mess. The purpose is to get a vigorous flow going through the pipes to scour them clean. Collateral damage may include washing away your driveway and maybe a pet or two.

We will follow a flushing schedule which starts at the top (highest elevation) of our system and winds up more or less at the bottom (see the calendar on "Just The Facts.") It is intended to herd the dirt uniformly, leaving nothing but pristine pipes behind. Reality, of course follows its own plan. We have learned that there are both physical and emotional consequences of pipeline flushing.

The physical:

- Low water pressure, or temporary absence of water. If it happens during our flushing program, in daytime, it is probably due to our activities. Otherwise, it's something we should know about quickly. Flushing seldom causes an outage of more than 15 to 20 minutes, but there may be exceptions. Be prepared by saving some water for essential use.
- Discolored water – this often happens, and could be caused by air, sediment, or rust. If a glass of milky-looking water clears up in a minute or two, it was just dissolved air, which is harmless and goes away on its own. If it stays cloudy, or settles visible mud in the bottom of the glass, then you should do some flushing of your own. Use large-bore faucets, like outside hose connections, or maybe a bathtub. Sink and shower fixtures are likely have flow restrictions and screens in them. They will not run much water, and might plug up. You will possibly need to clean your sink aerators after an episode of flushing. We will complete the flushing program before meter reading starts, so that you will not incur extra cost by flushing your own pipes.

The emotional aspect commonly appears as "water rage," a phenomenon that grips people during times of heavy stress, for example, in the shower when you've worked up a lather, and it's beginning to sting your eyes, and you need to rinse **immediately**, but there is a sudden lack of water, and by the time you drip your way to the phone to call USCDWUA and/or your lawyer, the water is running again, but has a yellow-brown hue that may discourage you from stepping back in, which doesn't matter, because the shower head plugs up and you find that you are dwelling at the utmost limit of your patience.*

If you inquire at our office, we will advise (guess) when you might expect the effects of flushing in your neighborhood. Unfortunately, we can't help you with water rage. This is one of those things in life you just have to deal with.

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*This paragraph, consisting of a single sentence, is what we call a "parasent-o-graphence."