

BIG MESA HOLIDAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

Happy Holidays to all Big Mesa Members and their families! May you have a safe, grateful and wonderful Holiday Season! We recently had personnel changes with both Vince Ramirez and Joey Segura resigning, but fortunately we were able to hire Bruce Ford as our new Water Operator who is not only certified and carries our Operational License but is a local resident! Jay (John) Allen, another local resident, was hired as the new Field Technician to help with repairs and meter reading. Please stop into the office and welcome Bruce and Jay to your Big Mesa team!

Long time Board Secretary Tim Isengard resigned in December leaving your Board with a vacant seat. During Tim's tenure of 13 years, he never missed a board meeting. We sincerely thank Tim for his community service on the Water Board! Big Mesa will certainly miss him! Per the By-Laws, any Member in good standing that is interested in filling the vacancy until the next election in June, should formally express that interest to Dana, the Office Manager, by submitting a letter of interest along with qualifications by: email, Bigmesa@plateautel.net or mail to, PO Box 40 Conchas Dam, NM 88416. The Board will then make a selection for the interim board member replacement. We hope to hear from you soon! Being a board member is an excellent opportunity to understand what it takes to make sure the community has a sufficient supply of safe, reliable, quality, continuous water 24/7!

Big Mesa continues to work with Alpha Southwest to "automate" our water pumping and filtering system. We are also going to need to replace the water filter media system at a cost \$20,000. Maintaining a sufficient level of treated water in the storage tank has been a challenge, especially in light of the office personnel changes. On the positive side, Big Mesa was awarded a \$50,000 State of New Mexico Engineering Study grant this past fall. Miller Engineering was selected to perform this engineering study. This is the first step in an anticipated lengthy process to update and modernize our nearly 50-year-old water system.

Financially, your Association remains on solid financial footing to address existing liabilities. Hopefully in 2018 we can continue to establish appropriate cash reserve levels. Please try to attend any monthly meeting (9am the second Saturday of every month until April at the water building) for a complete financial report.

Big Mesa is in the process of updating our website and we are working on trying to keep the web address "bigmesa-nm.com". If the web site changes, we will

inform you on your water bill. We are also in the process of updating all our member account files. Dana has included with your newsletter, a customer update form. We are asking our members to complete the update form and supply proof of their property ownership for our office records. This will need to include the legal description of the property. An effortless way to accomplish this is to provide a copy of the current year's property tax statement. Simply place a copy of your tax statement along with your update form, in the mail with your monthly water service payment. Thank you all for your cooperation in this process.

Any Member seeking a tax deduction could greatly help our Non-Profit Association through a material donation. Big Mesa is in need of a boat to perform maintenance on the lake water pumps and a golf cart for meter reading and short distance travel within our community. Even a pick-up is not out of consideration. Of course, any vehicle donations will help preserve Association finances to directly benefit the water system.

As a reminder, Per the Rules & Regulations, all members are required to install a shut-off valve between the MDWCA's meter and your dwelling. The purpose of the valve is to enable you (the member) to completely shut off the water to your dwelling. Your shut-off should be located near the meter (ie: 3 to 4 feet would be typical). Currently, we are not enforcing installation, but we highly encourage all members to install the shut-off valve (especially if you winterize your house) as soon as possible. Should you have any questions, please call our office.

Please remember Big Mesa is currently operating under "winter hours":

Trash Transfer Station: 8:30 – 1:30 7 days a week.

Office: 8:30 – 1:30 5 days a week.

Field: 8:00 – 3:00 5 days a week.

After hours: 575-403-4805/575-403-4525

Again, any Member who would like to assume the vacant Board seat until the next election in June, please formally submit your desire to Dana, as soon as possible. We hope you can attend the next monthly open meeting of your Association at 9am on Saturday, January 13th at the water building. Until then, may you and yours have a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

Jeff Strom, Treasurer

Your Big Mesa MDWCA