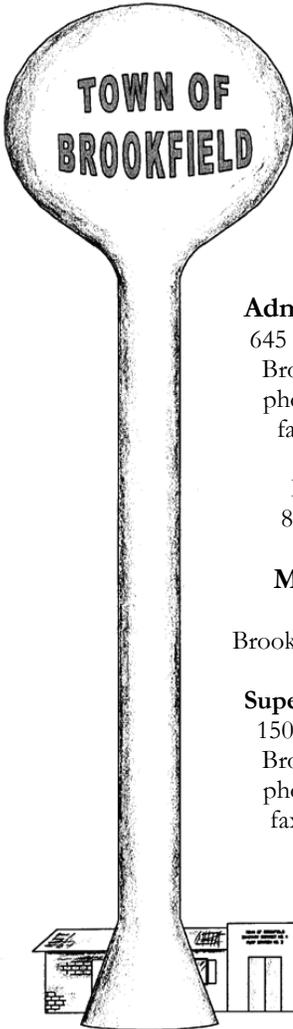


# WATER TOWER NEWS

## SANITARY DISTRICT NO. 4



### Administrative office:

645 North Janacek Road  
Brookfield, Wisconsin  
phone: 262.798.8631  
fax: 262.796.0339

Monday - Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Mailing address:

P.O. Box 1296  
Brookfield, WI 53008-1296

### Superintendent's office:

150 South Barker Road  
Brookfield, Wisconsin  
phone: 262.798.8629  
fax: 262.796.0339

## Lead and Copper in Compliance

The Sanitary District has many older homes that were constructed when lead plumbing materials were commonly used. Lead solder was used with copper pipes up to 1984. Even today lead can be found in some new brass fixtures.

Lead and copper testing is mandated by the EPA's Lead & Copper Rule which was adopted in June of 1991. Because we are historically in compliance we have taken the fewest samples allowed by law, but the law doesn't give anyone the opportunity to get a pass, so we will continue to sample every three years.

Sanitary District No. 4 completed its eighth round of testing last November on a group of 20 homes that we have been monitoring since 1993. The homes in our test group have copper plumbing with lead solder. EPA regulations require that 90% of the homes in our test group have lead levels of 15 micrograms per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ) or less. The 90 percentile level in our last round of testing was **1.6  $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$** , well under the EPA maximum level.

Lead is not found in our groundwater or water in the district's distribution mains, but is absorbed from lead plumbing materials. The utility carefully monitors the corrosion potential of our drinking water to minimize the amount of lead absorbed from household plumbing.

We recommend that residents with homes built before 1984 flush their water line before using water for cooking or drinking. It takes time for the water to absorb lead, so the idea is to use water that has not been in contact with lead plumbing materials for more than a few hours. Adequately flushing the water line can require running 1 to 2 gallons of water to draw fresh water from the water main. It would not be necessary to run as much water if the home does not have a lead service line, or if water has recently been used elsewhere in the house, to flush a toilet, shower or wash clothes for example.

Please contact us at 262.798.8631 if you have questions regarding lead in drinking water, lead plumbing, or flushing requirements.

## WATER SOFTENER SETTINGS

Setting up your water softener requires you to know the grains of hardness of the water. The water provided by the Sanitary District from our six wells ranges from 28 to 29 grains of hardness. A reminder; switching to a demand softener, you will be using less water which will lower your water and sewer bills, and the number of bags of salt you will need to purchase.



*"Thousands have lived  
without love,  
not one without water"*

W. H. Auden

## HYDRANT FLUSHING

This spring's fire hydrant flushing will be:

**April 13 through May 1**

The flushing accomplishes several tasks from exercising the valves to check operational status, and removing some trace minerals that can deposit in the distribution system.

## WATER METER REPLACEMENTS

It is very important that when you receive one of our blue postcards, that you call our office to set up an appointment to have your water meter replaced. With our new program, we will be installing new meters with radio read technology. This is done at no charge to you. We just ask for a few minutes of your time. All of our employees carry ID and travel in white vehicles with our blue logo. If you should have any concerns, please call our office. Your cooperation is appreciated.

## Dripping Faucet Why Should I Fix It?

Drips waste a precious product, and this waste should be stopped, even though the dripping water may not register on your water meter. To find out how much water you're wasting, put an 8-ounce measuring cup (or anything that will let you measure 8 ounces) under the drip and find out how many minutes it takes to fill it up. Divide the filling time into 90 ( $90 \div$  minutes to fill) to get the gallons of water wasted each day.



As an example, if you have a faucet that dripped 60 times a minute, or once each second, this adds up to over 3 gallons each day or 1,225 gallons each year, enough to fill more than twenty-two 55-gallon drums, just from one dripping faucet. This leak would fill the 8-ounce measuring cup in less than 30 minutes.

*(Source: Plain Talk About Drinking Water - Fourth Edition - American Water Works)*

**Office Closed — April 10, 2009**

## RENEWAL OF WELL PERMITS for 2009

Sanitary District will be sending notices in April, along with the necessary information, to 84 property owners with well permits dated 2004, telling them that it is time to either renew their private well permit or to abandon their well in 2009. Although the renewal requires you to have another inspection of your well, you will have to submit certification of only one safe water sample rather than the two safe water samples that were required with your initial permit.

We are again sending this information early so you can make an attempt to work on this in early spring, as it has been suggested that the spring is the best time to collect a safe water sample. As the summer heats up, so does the ground water, providing a greater chance of having an unsafe sample. In winter weather, unsafe samples also are prevalent.

If you have any questions regarding the renewal of your private well permit, please do not hesitate to call the Sanitary District office at 262-798-8631 or you can check the town's website at [www.townofbrookfield.com](http://www.townofbrookfield.com) under Departments for the Sanitary District's information. We also have all of the forms available online and a list of the properties that are affected this year.



## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Greetings, fellow frosty, cabin fevered, Sanitary District friends. How long can Mother Nature beat us up? It's Wisconsin and we all expect winter. We have all the big time clothes and accessories to deal with it. I know that we all know how to drive in snow, well most of us. All the smart weather people said that, no way could we have another "100 year winter" again this year. Well, if we had a "100 year winter" last year, and another one this year, I would think we should be getting warm thinking about the next 99 easy years ahead of us. Let's all think to ourselves about global warming.....

That said, at the Sanitary District, we are trying to work on indoor projects as much as we can. That is not always the case in this business, but that's what we have been trying to do. We continue working on the plans of looping mains north of Bluemound, and on the new tower for the north side of town. Something that some of you will start seeing this year is the installation of new meters with radio readers. We will be installing them on our normal meter replacement timetable, so the change-over will take some time. This is really great technology. We will be able to read the meters by walking down the street. The sanitary district is fairly lucky that most subdivisions were hooked up to water at the same time, so hopefully we can change complete subdivisions in the same year. The guys are especially happy as some routes can take five to six hours to read with the old meters. That's a nice walk in June; but it has been painful during the last few Decembers. It will take 10 years to complete the change over for the entire town.

I hope you all had a happy and safe holiday season. Try to stay warm and remember the days are getting longer, and it will soon be warm. Then I'll be able to tell you not to sprinkle your lawn, and crank about bottled water and the impact of the plastic bottles on our planet. Oh, how I miss summer.

Terry Heidmann – Superintendent