

# Quarterly NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2023

## Board Update

### Changes to the Board

Help us welcome our new board member, **Judy Harris**. Judy is an Auburn University graduate, a retired educator and has been a member of the Inlet Beach community for 50+ years!

The BOD would like to thank Ray Fambrough for his **4 years** of service to the Inlet Beach community.

### Serve on IBWS Board

IBWS is also looking for another member of the community to **join** the board. This person should have a passion for advancing Inlet Beach while keeping a strong hold on the family ideals that have held this community together.

Please contact Allen at 850-231-4498 if you have any interest in serving.

The Annual Board Meeting held on Saturday, August 27, 2022 at the Grande Pointe Pavilion was a success. Attendance for the meeting consisted of 16 members of the community, three board of directors and five employees of ClearWater Solutions representing Inlet Beach Water System.

Our board of directors lead by, Jim Kelly, conducted a rotary roll call and approved the previous annual meeting minutes.

Ed Lowe, general manager, gave a water quality report, and an update on operations and projects with Inlet Beach Water System.

Jim Kelly gave his President's report and a Treasurer's report in the absence of Ray Fambrough. Mr. Kelly discussed the considerations and decision the board made to hire ClearWater Solutions to manage and maintain operations for Inlet Beach Water System.

Jim later shared information relating to the ongoing lawsuit with Regional Utilities and Walton County.

Lastly, the board of directors presented Carol Anderson Mitchell an award for her 32 years of service to the Inlet Beach Water System and elected our newest board member, Judy Harris.

## Thank You Carol!

We had the pleasure of having **Carol Anderson Mitchell** as our Water Operator for over 32 years!

While we are sad that we won't get to see her smiling face each week, we wish her the best on her retirement. We know that Carol and her husband, Bob, can now do what they love and travel the world.



# COMMUNICATION



## We Heard You!

We heard that you want better communication on the things happening at Inlet Beach Water.



## View Your Bill Online Now!

The biggest improvement we made to communication is now you can view and print your full bill online!

Make sure you have your account number handy then click on "**MY ACCOUNT**" from our homepage to get started today!

First, we partnered with our vendor Nexbillpay to launch a call, text and email **alert system** for notifications that are time-sensitive. If there is a boil water notice then you will be notified immediately through one of these immediate channels. So please make sure your contact information is updated.

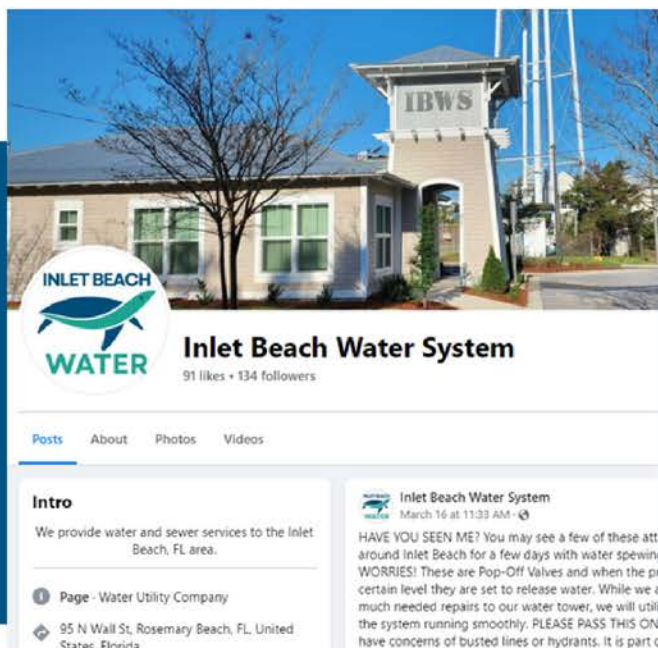
We re-engaged with our **Facebook** page to provide immediate notifications and connection with the community. Follow us @inletbeachwater

You may have noticed the changes in our **website** and how it functions. With a click of a few buttons you can now start and stop service, no more downloading a form, printing it then filling it out and sending it in. You can also quickly access your account information online with our partner Nexbillpay.

Our printed **bills** are more cost effective, less paper and give you just the info you need to mail in your payment.

## 5 Positive Changes Made in Communication:

1. Launched Text & Email Alert System
2. Engaged Facebook Messaging
3. Unveiled User-friendly Website
4. Introduced Environmental-friendly bills
5. Released Quarterly Newsletter



# Operations Update

## Water Tower

The iconic water tower is getting some much needed repairs and a face lift! Contractors are moving antennas to a temporary tower while our tower gets a make-over. It won't be long and you'll see the new IBWS logo in the sky!

## Land Purchase

Our community is growing rapidly and the need for water parallels that growth. In an effort to keep up, we have purchased the land adjacent to our Carson Lane operation for potential future needed resources.

## Meter Reading

We recently updated our meter reading capability with a tablet. Our team now uses a tablet and sensus technology to capture readings each month, which saves time and money.

## Water Flushing

Our community consist primarily of vacation homes which sit empty during most of the winter months. We have purchased and placed four automatic flushers throughout Inlet Beach to combat stagnate water concerns.

## Transportation

We've added a street legal golf cart to our operations. You will now see the team reading meters on this electric-cart. Just another way that IBWS is being environmental concise and good stewards with the resources entrusted by the Inlet Beach community.

A tall, white, lattice-structured water tower stands against a clear blue sky. The tower's spherical top is partially obscured by a green banner that reads "UNDER CONSTRUCTION". The word "Beach" is visible on the top of the tower. In the background, a white building with a blue roof and a chain-link fence are visible.

UNDER  
CONSTRUCTION

*"We are proud to support the Inlet Beach Water System customers. There are lots of good things happening."*

Allen Fowler, GM



# LITIGATION

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, IBWS filed a lawsuit against Regional Utilities (RU) and Walton County Commission (WCC) for cancelling our contract to treat our wastewater and increased our treatment cost by 420%. At February 28, 2023, RU claimed we owe them \$606,983.00, which of course is in our filed lawsuit and we have not passed this cost on to you.

Both WCC and RU have filed a motion to dismiss our lawsuit and that process is almost completed. We are represented by Chris Schwing with a national law firm of Holland and Knight out of their Jacksonville, Florida office. She is a trial lawyer, a partner with this firm and believes that our original lawsuit will stay intact for our jury trial.

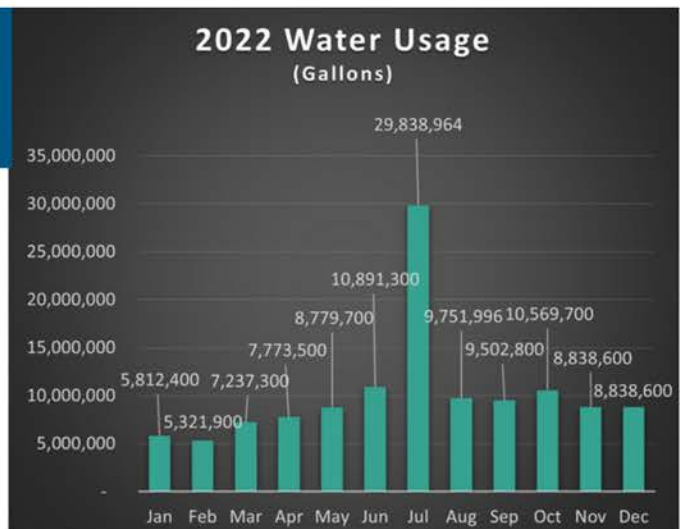
We also have local representation in Steve Bauman and Mike Flowers from the firm of Anchors, Smith and Grimsley located in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida.

We have a strong case against RU and WCC and with a fair trial and your support we will win!

# WATER QUALITY

The large spike in July usage is due to a normal increase and the testing/ flushing of the newly drilled well, which is a requirement from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection before introducing into our system. Below are the most recent water testing results and the MCLs (Maximum Contaminant Levels) allowed:

- Chlorine - **.74 mg/L** (Acceptable <4.0)
- Haloacetic Acids - **20.3 ug/L** (Acceptable <60)
- Total Trihalomethanes - **58.1 ug/L** (Acceptable <80)



# QUESTIONS?

If you have questions or concerns, please contact us at 850-231-4498 or email [office@inletbeachwater.com](mailto:office@inletbeachwater.com).

- Allen Fowler** - General Manager
- Amanda Edwards** - Office Manager
- Larry Palmer** - Lead Field Technician
- Bob Johnson** - Water Operator

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