



FEBRUARY, 2026 NEWSLETTER

NEAHKAHNIE CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NKN CAC)

All Neahkahnie residents and property owners are encouraged to become members of the NKN CAC to stay informed about County and State matters impacting Neahkahnie. Go to <https://www.nkncac.org/> to learn about and join the NKN CAC. Contact admin@nkncac.org with questions.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY MEETING

Mark your calendar! The Neahkahnie Water District Board of Commissioners is holding a **public meeting on April 11, 2026, starting at 10:00 am sharp at the Pine Grove** in Manzanita. Details on the agenda will be provided within the next several weeks. As always, monitor the District's website for details: nknwd.org.

NEW DATE FOR NEAHKAHNIE WATER DISTRICT BOARD MEETINGS

Starting this month, the **regularly scheduled Board meetings** for the Neahkahnie Water District will be held on the **THIRD TUESDAY of every month**. Previously the meetings were held on the second Tuesday. This change is being made to permit the monthly financial and other reports to be more readily prepared prior to the meeting. The date and time for every Board meeting can be found on the District's website: nknwd.org.

NEW SYSTEM OPERATOR

The Board is pleased to announce that Coren Tradd has joined the District as System Operator Trainee. Since Coren and his family live in the area, he is very familiar with our community. Coren will be working with District contractors to obtain certifications required by the State.

Please say hello when you see Coren in the neighborhood.

COST OF LIVING INCREASE IN BASE RATE

The \$40 per month Base Rate charge in your water bill will be increasing slightly starting with the March water bill. When the Base Rate was increased from \$25 to \$40 beginning in 2025, it was provided that the charge would be annually adjusted based on a 5-year average of a particular inflation index. As of the end of 2025, this amounted to \$1.88. Therefore, the **new monthly Base Rate will be \$41.88.**

SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT FEE--WILL HAVE NEW NAMES (BUT STILL COST THE SAME)

The title of the \$170 (\$85 monthly) "System Enhancement Fee" that appears on your water bill can be confusing. When the charge was first instituted about 20 years ago, it was in the amount of \$20 and was to pay for a significant capital improvement project the District had undertaken (the "big project"). In the beginning, the term was descriptive. However, when the District secured the financing necessary to acquire the watershed, the principal and interest payments (totaling \$65 per month) for the loans were included as part of the "System Enhancement Fee". This has resulted in many customer questions.

The Board has decided that it will be more descriptive and minimize confusion if this part of the water bill is renamed to more clearly describe the purpose of the charges. Therefore, the \$65 charge that is directed to repayment of the watershed loans will be called: "**Watershed Protection Debt Fund**". The \$20 charge that is used to repay the loans for the capital improvements in the "big project" of 2006 will be called: "**Capital Improvement Fund**".

These new designations will be in the March water bills from the District.

AWAY FROM YOUR HOUSE

As mentioned in the previous Newsletter, you should consider shutting off the water to your residence to avoid damage from a water leak if you are going to be away for any

significant time. One of the largest causes of damage to homes is from water leaks. The entry in the last Newsletter was concerned with frozen pipes but leaks can occur for other reasons, e.g., ruptured washing machine, dishwasher, or refrigerator icemaker hose. These are particularly at risk if your house does not have a pressure reducing valve.

Recently, during routine monitoring of water use readings from the new remote reading meters, it was noticed that one house had significant water use over several hours. A District employee went to the location and saw water flowing from the house.

Unfortunately, the meter box was not easily located so it took some time to shut off water to the house. The house did not have a pressure reducing valve and a leak had occurred on the second floor. While this situation did show the value of the District's remote reading meters, there was still a significant amount of damage that was done to the residence.

This unfortunate situation demonstrated three things. First, as stated in the last Newsletter, your residence should have a pressure reducing valve. Second, shut off your water when you leave for a significant amount of time. Also shut off appliances that depend on water such as water heaters. Third, make sure your water meter box is visible, i.e., not covered by grass, dirt or blackberries.

Board of Commissioners, Neahkahnie Water District