



Contact: Nick Lawler, general manager, LELWD, 978-540-2222, [nlawler@lelwd.com](mailto:nlawler@lelwd.com)

## **LELWD to Begin Water Main Flushing Sept. 20**

The Littleton Electric Light and Water Departments will begin flushing the water main distribution system throughout town beginning Sept. 20. LELWD is asking water consumers to prepare for the possibility of periods of temporarily discolored water during the flushing process.

Historically, LELWD flushes the water mains every year to limit the buildup of iron and manganese that flows from the unfiltered well sites. However, reduced pumping capacity caused by drought conditions and the shutdown of the Spectacle Pond well due to PFAS contamination necessitated a halt to flushing for the past 30 months. The iron and manganese sediment poses no danger to human health; however, it can taste unpleasant and stain laundry and fixtures.

While in previous years, LELWD could predict which areas of town would be impacted by flushing on any given day, the impacts may be less predictable this year due to the extended time between system flushing. However, the following streets will be flushed first and will be impacted the most for the first two weeks of the program, starting Sept. 20:

- Harvard Road
- Sanderson Road
- Oak Hill Road
- Whitcomb Ave
- Taylor Street
- Porter Road
- Foster Street between Taylor and Harwood
- Harwood Ave between Foster and King
- Side streets off of the main roads listed above

LELWD understands this is an inconvenience for consumers and suggests taking these steps to prepare for and manage discolored water:

- Run the tap closest to the water meter (usually in the basement or a first-floor sink) to see if it is clear to avoid pulling sediment into the building's pipes and

appliances attached to the water system, such as dishwashers and hot water heaters.

- Run a cold tap for 10 minutes until the discolored water runs clear. If sediment remains, wait an hour or two and repeat the process.
- Consider setting aside clear water in pitchers or pots for use during periods of discolored water.

“With the completion of the Whitcomb Ave well replacement and the heavy rains this summer, there has been less demand on the water supply, and we are confident we can perform this required maintenance while meeting customer demand. We understand discolored water is an inconvenience, but it is a temporary condition that will lead to a higher quality of water,” said LELWD General Manager Nick Lawler.

Flushing the entire system may take four to six weeks. The flushing moves water through sections of the distribution system, creating a scouring action to clean the line and remove build-up of naturally occurring debris and sediment. The water is then discharged through select fire hydrants onto the ground.

Loose sediment and other deposits may slowly build up on the inside of the water mains over time. Flushing can remove these sediments and deposits and will improve taste, odor and color that may be problematic.

The flushing process is critical to maintain high water quality, improve the carrying capacity of pipes, and ensure proper operation of distribution system components, such as hydrants and valves.

For more information, call 978-540-2222.

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