

We live and work in a little piece of paradise, and DWU is intent on doing our part to keep it that way.



DESTIN WATER USERS INC.

# CONNECTIONS

Photo By: Savannah Vasquez, The Destin Log



Fall 2015

## ► A MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER

### UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We currently have several projects under construction along various roads in Destin, and you can expect to see more activity during the next couple of years. Some of these projects are designed to beef up our existing infrastructure to address ongoing operational issues and others are designed to accommodate future growth.

We recently replaced some sewer lines and are in the process of replacing a lift station near Calhoun and Forest Street. In these locations, the infrastructure was undersized and we installed larger assets to improve the performance of our service in this area. Additionally, the larger assets will accommodate future growth that we expect to occur.

Another project that we will be undertaking this fall is to replace an existing water line in the area of Indian Trail and Bayou Drive. This project will increase the size of the existing line so we can add a fire hydrant for fire protection and interconnect the water line to eliminate a dead-end line.

In the next two years, we plan to make improvements to our water system to move more water from the east side of town to the west side of town. We are still studying this project so we don't know the full scope of work, but the project is needed so we can reduce the demand on our coastal wells and improve service to the west side of town.

In addition to these projects, we will be making repairs to our existing sewer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Under Construction	1
Director Elections	2
Employees of the Month	3
Message from the President	3
Wastewater Awards	4





Pictured:

H&T Contractors  
installing new  
water and sewer  
lines along Reddin  
Brunson Road.



#### UNDER CONSTRUCTION *continued from page 1*

system. We've been video taping sewer lines throughout our service area and identifying repairs that are needed to stop inflow and infiltration into our system. Some of these repairs can be made by simply installing a slip liner into the sewer line which does not require any roadway excavation, but other repairs will require us to dig up sections of the road to make repairs.

The biggest project that we will be undertaking is the relocation of water and sewer lines in the Highway 98 right of way from Airport Road east to the Okaloosa/Walton County line. This work is required to get out of the way of the Highway 98 widening project that is scheduled to begin in January 2017. Most of this work will involve relocating existing water and sewer lines, but we have also identified some opportunities where we can improve interconnectivity of

the system and consolidate multiple smaller lines into one larger line.

We understand that any construction project causes disruptions to our normal routine and we will do our best to minimize those disruptions. Please pay attention to announcements concerning these construction projects so you can make adjustments in your daily travel plans if needed. We also encourage everyone to pay attention to the traffic control signage that will be placed around the construction projects to ensure your safety. In closing, we assure you that the work we are doing is essential to preserving this little piece of paradise we call home and we ask you to pardon our dust as we do our part to keep it that way.

**LOCKWOOD WERNET**  
General Manager

## Director Elections

Destin Water Users, Inc. is a member owned not-for-profit cooperative utility. The business of the corporation is to construct, maintain and operate a water and wastewater system for its members. The business affairs of the corporation are overseen by a nine-member Board of Directors elected from the membership of the corporation. The Directors are elected to staggered three year terms. The Board members meet monthly to conduct regular business and also in occasional special sessions to conduct business of the various subcommittees of the Board. The Directors receive no compensation for their services.

Elections for the Board of Directors are held annually. Candidates for Director are nominated by members of the corporation. Secret ballots will be mailed out around the New Year and election results are announced at the annual meeting in March.

If you, or someone you know, is interested in serving on the Board of Directors, please go to our website, [www.dwuinc.com](http://www.dwuinc.com), for details on how to nominate a director.

 Find us on **Facebook!**

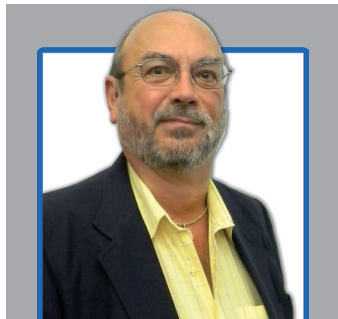
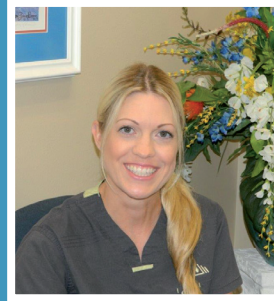
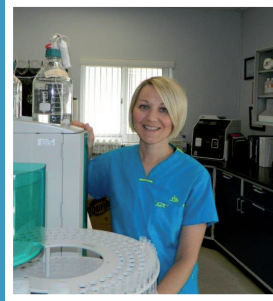
## EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

(from left to right)

**JUNE 2015** Kasia Knaus

**JULY 2015** Erica Magera

**AUGUST 2015** Joe Fosdick



TOM WEIDENHAMER, PRESIDENT

## Message from the **PRESIDENT**



DWU was recently notified it was awarded the AWWA American Water Landmarks Award for Tower 1 located at the intersection of Benning Drive and Azalea Drive. The award will be presented to the DWU staff at the Florida Section American Water Works Association Fall Conference to be held in Orlando later this year.

The AWWA American Water Landmarks Award is presented to recognize and preserve a Water Landmark at least 50 years old that has had a direct and significant relationship with water's supply, treatment, distribution, or technological development. It should be of a permanent and nonexpendable nature, be recognized within its own community or region as a popular, valued, or historically significant property, and has been and will be maintained in a manner appropriate of landmark status.

Situated atop one of Destin's highest elevations and near the harbor, Tower 1 was one of the first projects undertaken by DWU at the dawn of its existence as a member-owned corporation. Constructed with Destin's first public water well (Well 1), Tower 1 also served as a beacon used by local fisherman to navigate their way back to the Destin Harbor.

The 75,000 gallon potable drinking water storage tank was released for design in September 1963. Construction was completed in the fall of 1964 and the tower was officially dedicated in October of that same year. The original single pedestal tank was painted orange and white like a beach ball to increase its visibility and the interior stair design prevented graduating seniors from gaining access to paint CLASS of '65 on the outside.

We are grateful to our founding members who had the foresight to create Destin Water Users, Inc. to ensure that we had a safe and reliable supply of drinking water for our community. We recognize the wisdom of the Board members who added wastewater treatment and reuse disposal to our operations. Therefore, we take our mission statement that "We live and work in a little piece of paradise, and DWU is intent on doing our part to keep it that way" very seriously. The decisions of your Board of Directors are focused on addressing immediate needs and concerns of our members and on ensuring the longevity of DWU for the next 50 years.

*Tom Weidenhamer*



## DESTIN WATER USERS, INC.

P.O. Box 308  
Destin, FL 32540-0308

### OFFICE HOURS

The DWU office is open Monday thru Friday  
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

### PHONE NUMBERS

Administrative Office – Bill Payment Questions and Concerns  
(850) 837-6146

Emergencies, Nights, Sundays and Holidays  
(850) 837-6551

### PAYMENT OPTIONS

Running late? Pay your DWU bill over the phone! We accept MasterCard, Visa and Discover. Contact a Customer Service Representative for more information. You can also pay your bill online at [www.dwuinc.com](http://www.dwuinc.com)

### WANT YOUR MONTHLY BILL PAID AUTOMATICALLY?

We can do it! Visit Customer Service and complete an electronic transfer form. The automatic bank draft option is easy and it saves you time. . . your bill will be paid with no worries!

## PAY ONLINE



Paying your DWU bill is easier than ever! Simply go online to [dwuinc.com](http://dwuinc.com) and click "Payment Options" at the top of the page. It will take you to the correct location and provide instructions on getting set up for this convenient payment method.

## Wastewater Awards

Congratulations to the Destin Water Users, Inc. Wastewater Department for winning the Florida Rural Water Association (FRWA) Medium Wastewater Plant of the Year Award and to Joe Fosdick being named FRWA Wastewater Operator of the Year. These

awards recognize organizations and individuals for their performance and contributions to the water and wastewater industry. The awards were presented at the FRWA Annual Conference held in Daytona Beach in August of this year.

## Destin Water Users Board of Directors



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WEIDENHAMER  
President



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BARRY BOYD



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BUCKINGHAM



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FOREMAN



Ames  
HUDSON



Jim  
LINK



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Secretary/Treasurer



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TRAMMELL