

CHEROKEE RURAL WATER
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Cherokee Rural Water *Annual News* *May 2023*

I sincerely **THANK** all of the Board Members, The success of any organization like CRW depends largely on the Board of Directors.

Here is a little bit of information about each nominee.

DOUG RADKE: Doug and his wife Barb farm south of Aurelia and have four children, Jamin (husband Adam), Jessica, Ryan and Jana. They are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Doug has served on several church boards, committees and is a past Aurelia school board member. Presently he is a Cherokee County Cattleman's member and Cherokee County Pork Producers member. He serves as the Diamond Township clerk. Doug has played an active role representing CRW at the Iowa Rural Water Association meetings and currently serves on that board.

JASON DUCOMMUN: Jason and his wife Carey have a grain and cow/calf farm east of Larrabee. Carey is employed at CRMC. They have two sons Jaden (age 23), and is active on the family farm, Drew (age 20), will graduate from John Deere Tech, then will be working at Agrivision in Paulina, and a daughter Adrie (age 16), who will be a junior at CHS this fall. Jason is a volunteer firefighter for Larrabee, and a Member of Meriden Evangelical Free Church. Jason has also served on the Cherokee County Fair Board, Jason commented, "Rural water has been a benefit for my family. I would like to help make rural water more affordable for new customers, while maintaining the high quality of our water and service we provide to our current customers."

CRAIG HOMAN: Craig and his wife Jacque live east of Remsen and are the proud parents of FIVE daughters, ages 0-10. They are active Members of Remsen St. Mary's Church. Craig is currently employed at Corteva Agriscience as a Project Engineer, and farms with his family. Craig is currently the Secretary/Treasurer of the Board and would appreciate the opportunity to continue serving the members of the system, ensuring reliable and cost-effective source of water.

We had a very busy year in 2022... During 2022 we did 30 add-ons. That was 12 more than we budgeted for in 2021. We also sold 345,664,000 gallons of water for the year, which is a 17,000,000-gallon increase from the previous year due to the dry conditions we experienced last year. Once again, our priority for the year was to reduce water loss by pressure testing lines. Ten years ago, we averaged 25 mainline leaks per year. That average has been slowly increasing with the most common failure being at the original glue jointed pipe, installed back in the late 70's. In 2022 we fixed around 40 leaks. We have 900 miles of pipeline in service, that is far more than we can cover in a summer. If you see a possible leak, please contact our office, if it is a leak we will send you a \$20.00 leak reward.

New Deep Wells... Back in early 2020, during routine maintenance, an original 380 foot-deep well (drilled in the mid 1970's) at our Mill Creek Water Plant developed a hole in the steel casing pipe at the depth of 250 foot. A new 385-foot deep well was then drilled with larger casing so we could install a larger pump to produce more water for increased demands. In late spring of 2021, to keep up with our aging infrastructure, replaced **THREE** other original deep wells. TWO of the THREE wells were completed by the end of fall 2022 and put in service just before the first of the year in 2023. Those two wells are approximately 400 feet deep. We are also planning on replacing the third well at just under 300 foot during the summer of 2023. All of this is part of our routine maintenance that we perform over the years to continue to provide safe, reliable, and economical water system for all.

Website... To access our website, please go to; www.cherokeeruralwater.com to check it out. We will continue to add information and notices to the website as time goes on.

PLEASE... Also Subscribe to the Alerts, you can also use the area in the lower right to send us any information that would be pertinent to your account.

Reminder: Higher water usage than normal... Before calling our office, please check a few things around your house and yard shut the incoming valve off for a FEW minutes, open the valve, if you hear a rush of water you have a leak on your system. Look around. Toilets are the main reason for many higher water bills. Place food coloring in the back tank of the toilet, wait for about ten minutes, if the color has made it into the bottom bowl, the FLOPPER valve in the back tank is bad and should be replaced. Also, check the drain line on your water softener and make sure that it is NOT constantly running a small stream of water. Check outside plumbing. Look in pits to make sure you do not hear or see any water leaking. LISTEN to hydrants. You can hear leaks on them if it is a direct bury hydrant. Also, make sure you are using your physical disconnect properly so you are not pushing water back down your well. When you have exhausted all these options and you think it could be a leak, then contact our office to set up a time where we can come out and try to help you narrow down where the water is going.

