

Board of directors update

Directors elected **David Friend** board chair for 2018. He has served 17 years on the board. He was first elected in 2000 and re-elected in 2006 and 2012. He represents Subdivision 2.



David Friend

Directors chose **Tim Cavanaugh** as vice-

chair. He has served 18 years on the board. He was appointed in 1999; elected in 2002, and



Tim Cavanaugh

re-elected in 2008 and 2014. He represents Subdivision 4. He is the chief deputy of the Douglas County Treasurer's Office and a retired captain of the Omaha Police Department.

Other directors are:

Jim Begley, Tom Dowd, Jack Frost, Gwen Howard and Mike McGowan.

The board meets the first Wednesday of the month at the downtown headquarters, 1723 Harney St. Board agendas and documents are posted at www.mudomaha.com. Meetings are live streamed. For details, visit the website, click "Our Company" and board links.



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5K run and walk for warmth: March 3 at Werner Park

What is it? The 11th annual Heat the Streets Run & Walk for Warmth is a timed 5K and untimed, family-friendly walk.

Why do we do it? Proceeds go to local energy assistance programs to help seniors, people with disabilities and low-income families pay their utility bills. The event is held in the cold winter months to bring attention to those who struggle to heat their homes.



What are the details?

- New location! Werner Park, Papillion
- Race day check-in from 7-8:30 a.m. 5K begins at 9 a.m., with walk to immediately follow. The run route is posted on the event website.
- Parking is free in the Werner Park lots.
- Awards will be given to the overall top male and female 5K finishers, as well as 1st place for male and female in each age division. *Must be present to win.*

How much does it cost?

- 5K: \$30 (Feb. 1-28); \$40 (March 3)
- Walk: \$20 (Feb. 1-28); \$30 (March 3)
- Virtual participant: \$15. Contribute to the cause even if you are unable to attend.

Where do I sign up? Register at www.heatthestreetsomaha.org. Online registration closes Feb. 28 at midnight. Event day registration will be available.

Questions? Visit the website or email heatthestreetsomaha@gmail.com. For event updates, please follow the Facebook page at facebook.com/heatthestreetsomaha.

Check out "Cold Weather Safety Tips" at www.mudomaha.com.

M.U.D. board approves 2018 budget with a 1-percent overall water rate increase and no changes to gas rates

Total average residential bill projected to decrease

The M.U.D. board approved a 2018 budget resulting in expected 2018 revenues of \$123.2 million for the Water Department and \$204.4 million for the Gas Department. Gas revenues are down from 2017’s budget of \$216.3 due to lower projected usage. The revenues will be used to fund the District’s operating expenses, gas purchases, debt service costs, capital improvements, cast iron pipe replacement and to maintain reasonable cash reserves.

“The budget aligns with our mission to provide safe, reliable and cost-effective natural gas and water services to the community while maintaining financial stability. The District continues to manage expenses and look at long-term capital plans to ensure we maintain reasonable rates for our customers,” said M.U.D. President **Scott Keep**.

Directors approved a 1-percent overall water rate increase, recovered via a 2.5-percent increase to the variable usage component of a customer’s bill. There will be no change in a customer’s service charge or water infrastructure replacement charge. The water rate increase is projected to generate approximately \$1.4 million in additional revenue in 2018; despite this, the bill for the average residential customer is budgeted to

Average Monthly M.U.D. Bill

City residential rate for water and gas*



*includes service and infrastructure charges

decrease due to lower projected use. These charges are effective January 2, 2018.

- Water use for the 2018 average residential customer is budgeted at 106 CCF (79,288 gallons). Water use for the 2017 average residential customer was budgeted at 114 CCF (85,272 gallons).
- A customer with a 5/8 inch water meter will see a projected monthly water bill decrease from an average of \$30.20 to \$29.41. This is based on the District’s 2017 Budget as compared to the 2018 Budget. Both budgets are based on a normal weather pattern and 2018 shows decreased use of 7 percent.
- Annual budgeted water bill for the average residential customer is projected to be \$353 in 2018 compared to \$362 in 2017.

There will not be a gas rate increase for 2018. The 2018 budget assumes lower projected volumes for an average residential customer, resulting in a lower bill.

- Gas use for the 2018 average residential customer is budgeted at 774 therms. Gas use for the 2017 average residential customer was budgeted at 802 therms.
- An average residential customer, based on normal weather patterns and decreased use of 3.5 percent, should see the average monthly gas bill decrease from \$52.74 to \$50.03.
- Annual budgeted gas bill for the average residential customer is projected to be \$600 in 2018 compared to \$633 in 2017.

“Even with the water rate increase, the average residential customer’s total gas and water bill is expected to decrease due to lower water and gas consumption based on normal weather,” said M.U.D. Chief Financial Officer **Deb Schneider**.

“Long-term capital plans ensure we are managing rate impacts to our customers. Bonding long-term capital infrastructure, such as the Florence capital improvement plan and our cast iron gas main replacement initiative, allows us to spread these costs over a longer term; thereby keeping these charges more manageable to today’s customers.”