

March 2024 Newsletter

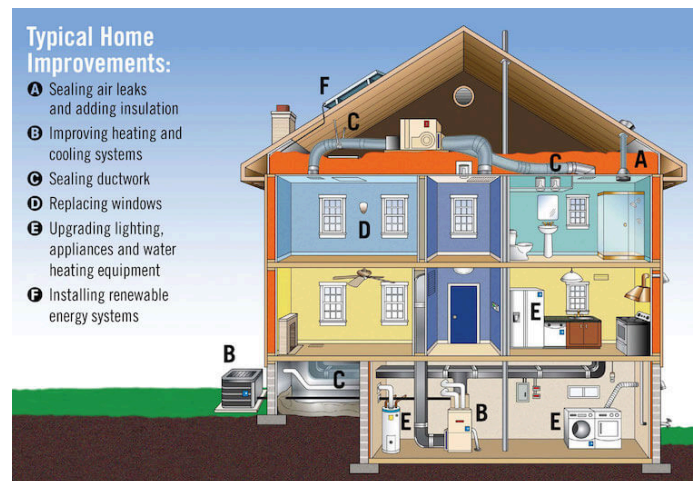
- **Home Energy Efficiency Tips**
 - **Heat Pumps**
 - **Water Shut Off**
- **Wastewater Treatment Plant**
- **Groundwater Awareness Week**
- **What is the Board working on now?**

Improve Your Home Energy Efficiency

We use energy every day in our homes, and businesses, to power our lights, appliances, heating and cooling systems, and other electronic devices. Energy-efficient practices allow us to enjoy the comfort and performance of these modern conveniences while keeping our energy use and our utility bills low. Efficiency upgrades can make a substantial difference to your energy bills. For example, replacing outdated and inefficient bulbs with highly efficient LEDs is just one simple change that can save you money each month. Home weatherization improvements, like changing out single-paned windows with double or triple paned, offer better insulation and can reduce the costs of heating or cooling your home.

Here are 10 quick and easy ways to save on your energy bill.

- Turn off lights, computers, appliances, TV's, etc. when they are not in use.
- Use energy-saving light bulbs such as LED bulbs.
- Close window shades during the summer to preserve a cool atmosphere indoors, and keep shades open during the winter to take advantage of the sun's warmth.
- Use "Smart" power strips that don't draw phantom energy when appliances are not in use.
- Weatherize your home by making sure windows, insulation, doors, etc. are up-to-date and all air leaks are sealed.
- Install water-saving appliances, such as low-flow faucets and shower heads and water-efficient toilets.
- Wash only full loads of clothes in cold water and air dry on a drying rack.
- Replace/clean filters to improve air flow and prevent your appliances from overworking.



- Invest in smart HVAC systems such as programmable thermostats and install Energy Star appliances.
 - Insulate your water heater and plumbing system.
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Increased Interest in Heat Pumps



There is growing interest in heat pumps within the Kirkwood community. Heating in Kirkwood is currently provided using propane, wood, or electricity with resistive heating. A heat pump is like an air conditioner in reverse - it takes heat from the outside and pumps it into the inside of a building. The advantage of a heat pump is it uses on half to one third the electricity (see <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/heat-pump-systems>) of conventional electric heating.

In the photo remodel above, the heat pump system replaces an old electric baseboard unit and is complemented by a wood stove. The heat pump thermostat has remote access so the house can be warmed before arrival.

An additional benefit of heat pumps is they come in reversible models that can either heat or cool a building. This is an advantage on a warm smoky day when you want to cool your house but keep your windows closed.

For new construction, the building design can include protected spaces for the heat pump. The District wants to help increase the knowledge about heat pumps in the Kirkwood community to assist customers who want to consider them in new construction, remodels, and replacement heating in existing buildings.

Can you locate your Water Shut Off?



It is critical that homeowners know the location of all their water shutoff valves, inside and outside of the home. A broken water line or fixture can lead to serious property damage and an expensive water bill. Most homes have a shutoff valve inside of the house, where the water enters the home that will isolate water for virtually the entire residence, which should be accessible to the homeowner or plumber. Knowledge of the location of these valves is critical for protecting your home. There are several different types of shutoff valves. Homeowners need to be aware of all shutoff valves and their locations and ensure that access to these valves is always available in the event of an emergency. Gate valves, as shown below, are typically located within the house, and are shut off by turning the handle clockwise until it is fully closed.

Wastewater Treatment Plant

We are pleased to share the Wastewater Treatment Plant Repair and Rehabilitation project, funded through a low-interest loan from USDA Rural Development, is progressing well and is currently on schedule for completion

in fall of 2025. The improvements of the lab are underway beginning with complete demolition and reconstruction of the walls previously damaged by a leaking roof (which was repaired in 2021).

Services and operations are not expected to be interrupted during this phase of the work by KG Walters Construction Company.

These are before and current photos of the Lab.

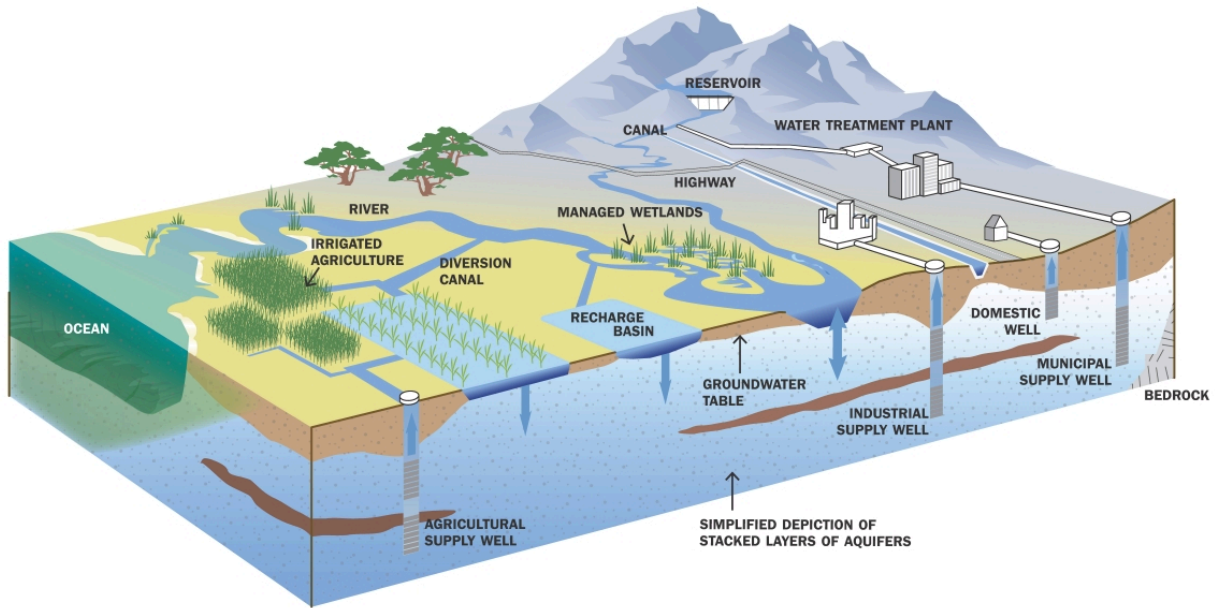


Groundwater Awareness Week - March 10-16

[Groundwater Awareness Week](#) is an annual observance established in 1999 to highlight the responsible development, management, and use of groundwater. It is also a platform to encourage yearly water well testing and well maintenance, and the promotion of policies impacting groundwater quality and supply.

- Did you know the Kirkwood Valley {our} domestic water is currently supplied by four groundwater wells owned and operated by the District and located throughout the Kirkwood Valley with a combined peak production of 225 gallons per minute. The existing storage system includes two storage tanks with a capacity of 950,000 gallons. The District's water distribution system consists of approximately five miles of pipelines ranging from six to ten inches in diameter.
- Did you know that Groundwater contributes up to 60 percent of the statewide annual supply during dry years? That makes it an important resource for all Californians. Learn more this week during [National Groundwater Awareness Week](#)

- About 83% of Californians depend on groundwater for some portion of their water supply. Learn more this week during National Groundwater Awareness Week.



What is the Board of Directors doing now?

At the March Board Meeting, the Board reviewed the results of the KVFD survey. We thank those of you that participated as this will help guide the Board with their next steps.

Note: beginning May2024, the Board of Directors meeting will be held on the 1st Friday of each month.

