

Water District News

January 2008

**Bolivar Peninsula
Special Utility District**
P.O. Box 1398
Crystal Beach, TX 77650
(409) 684-3515

Board of Directors

President

**Lynette Johnson-
Hardcastle**

Vice President
George Strong

Secretary
Harold Guidry

Treasurer
Al Altemus

Directors

**Jack Blume
Jackson Cowart
David Fortenberry
Eddie Oehlers
Mary Ellen Smith
Dennis Stafford
Roger Welch**

General Manager
Jennifer McKnight

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www.bpsud.com**

Directors Elected November 6th

The District's Board of Directors' election held on November 6, 2007 resulted in two incumbents and one new member being elected.

George Strong, a resident of Crystal Beach, is semi-retired. Strong attends Bay View United Methodist Church, is a member of the Board of Directors and is the Secretary of the Emerald Beach I property owners association. He is a member of the Bolivar Peninsula Chamber of Commerce and the Lighthouse Krewe. Prior to moving to Crystal Beach Strong owned and operated George Strong and Associates (GS&A) in Houston. GS&A provided lobbying, campaign consulting, grassroots lobbying and communications services. As a political analyst, Strong is often quoted in the Houston newspapers and on various talk radio stations including News Talk station KTRH.

Strong is a native of South Dakota, graduated from South Dakota State University and has a master degree from the University of Denver.

David Fortenberry has owned property on Bolivar Peninsula for 10 years. He and his wife, Sandy, moved here permanently in 2005. David retired in 2000 from Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center where he served as Chief Operating Officer. Following his 25 years of service at The Blood Center, he spent the next four years consulting for an international pharmaceutical company. David currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Gilchrist Community Association. David and Sandy have two children, David Jr. and Holly, and a 4 year old grandson, Wesley.

Newly elected to the

Board is Jackson Cowart. He moved from Friendswood to Port Bolivar in 2003. His move to the Peninsula followed his retirement from IBM Global Services after a thirty year career as a Systems Engineer and Large Systems Specialist. Cowart continues to work on systems design and web design on a contract basis. While working for IBM in Houston he was Enterprise Communications Specialist for the Large Accounts Marketing Branch with responsibilities for design, implementation, customization, and performance of very large networks. Mr. Cowart is married to his wonderful wife of 40 years, Charm, and they have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. In his spare time he likes to fish, read, and play golf.

NOVEMBER 6TH ELECTION RESULTS

NAME	NO. OF VOTES
George Strong	319
Jackson Cowart	276
David Fortenberry	265
Jack Haigh	202
Alan "JJ" Verret	140
Shawn Pachlhofer	86

**20" Water
Line and
Elevated
Tank Under
Construction
See Page 2**

The New Water Line is Coming!

Have you seen the big, blue pipes along Highway 87 through Crystal Beach? Many people have wondered what is going on and why these pipes are laid out. The answer is great news, especially for residents in the Port Bolivar area. BPSUD is upgrading the 12 inch water line from Singing Sands to Port Bolivar, and the first phase of the project is well underway. This first phase of the project consists of a new 20 inch water line from Singing Sands to the tank at Boyt Road. The cost of this project is almost \$3.8 million and it is expected to be completed by summer. The contract company that is installing the water line is Allco from Beaumont, Texas.

The New Year will bring new construction of a 500,000 gallon elevated storage tank at Boyt Road. By April a large concrete pedestal should be completed at the site and the tank will then be constructed to sit on the pedestal. The new tank is required to meet Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) standards. The TCEQ is the State agency that regulates water systems in Texas and BPSUD has been in violation of pressure storage capacity rules for many years. At a cost of about \$1.6 million, the new tank will allow residents of the Port Bolivar area to maintain water pressure even in high usage times. The contract company that will be constructing the tank is Landmark Structures from Fort Worth, Texas.

Lead Panic on the Peninsula

There were a few moments of panic on the Peninsula after the District sent out letters to all customers warning that “some homes in this community have elevated lead levels in their drinking water.” But the fact is the water is safe! The water is purchased from the Lower Neches Valley Authority and does not contain lead. The elevated lead levels come from lead solder used to connect pipes in some homes built before 1986. When water stands in such pipes for more than six hours, lead from the solder can leach into the water.

People just need to take some common-sense precautions. It is suggested that residents flush their water system before drinking water that has been sitting in the pipes for six hours or more. Let the cold water tap run for 30 seconds until the water gets colder, indicating it is fresh from the outside main. Customers are also advised not to use hot water from the tap for cooking or drinking, since it has been sitting in the pipes and the hot water heater, where it could absorb lead that may leach from the home’s piping. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality also suggests replacing lead solder if it was used in your home, although this can be costly.

Anyone concerned about lead in their drinking water should have their water tested. Since the problem is not with the District’s lines, but with the pipes in some homes, it is the responsibility of the homeowners to have their water tested by a private water testing company. There are many laboratories in the Houston and Beaumont area that will perform water testing for customers.

Of 30 homes tested on the Peninsula, more than 10% of homes came back with lead levels greater than 0.015 parts per million, which triggered the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality’s requirements that customers be informed of a potential problem. Unacceptable customer water samples ranged from 0.0168 parts per million to 0.0411 parts per million. The wording of the notice that was mailed to customers is mandated by the State and can seem very scary. Using common sense and flushing out the home piping before drinking the water should prevent lead ingestion.

E-Bill Now Available

Customers can now view and pay their water bills on-line. Additionally, customers that register their account on the website can select to receive an e-mail notification each month announcing that their new water bill is ready to view. The e-mail notification will be sent when bills are mailed each month. If the water bill is not paid by the due date, another e-mail will be sent when a final notice is mailed to remind the customer that the bill is now due. This service is especially convenient for customers that receive mail in other cities as it will guarantee they know about their bill as soon as it is mailed!

To register for this service, simply visit the District website at:

www.bpsud.com

Instructions for signing up are available on the website and customers are encouraged to print the instructions. Signing up is easy if you follow each step in the instructions. Customers needing assistance can call BPSUD at (409) 684-3515.

Winter Conservation Tips

- Check your household pipes, exposed irrigation pipes, and outside faucets to make sure they have adequate insulation.
- Wrap insulating tape around pipes in unheated areas such as garages.
- Set heater thermostats to low during vacations instead of shutting them off.
- Decrease your watering schedule, and water lawns and landscaping between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to save water and to prevent freezing water on sidewalks and streets.
- Know where your home's water shut-off valve is located.
- Keep cabinet doors under sinks open, allowing the warm air inside the house to circulate and warm exposed pipes.

BE waterwise 



**BOLIVAR PENINSULA SPECIAL UTILITY DISTRICT
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CRYSTAL BEACH, TEXAS 77650**

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