

MAY 2020 Rainbow is 70 years old! Some highlights from the 1980s follow.

In May 1983, Rainbow had ten employees serving about 17,000 people, one-third of the Springfield area population. Our employees were active with groups like the Springfield Lion's Club. In this picture, Rainbow and SUB crews loaded up 14 fire hydrants painted by elementary school students to be driven on a flatbed truck in the "Springfest" parade.



Dalmatian "Topaz" with Fire Chief Don Hershel

December 1983 brought a 6-day cold spell. Water use was up 40% on Christmas Day due to burst pipes and people letting faucets run to prevent their pipes from freezing.



John Lively Doug Wise Masashi Oka Mr. Imayasu Mr. Okura Mike Shadbolt Mike Kelly
Ed Black John Moore Mr. Suginami Mr. Fukuda Mr. Imamura Vicki Dietmeyer Tim Hanley

Downtown Springfield was served by a small water system operated by Mountain States Power Company, which was not inclined to expand beyond the city limits of the time. (Mountain States' water system was acquired by Pacific Power & Light in 1954, which was then purchased by SUB in 1975.) Due to this, much of the water system expansion that allowed north and west Springfield to develop was the result of Rainbow's investment in infrastructure over 25+ years. In this March 1988 photo, area dignitaries met with a Japanese trade delegation considering a move to Springfield.



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CORONAVIRUS IMPACTS

Rainbow continues to operate as an essential service, providing public drinking water and supporting fire protection as we observe how implementation of the Phase 1 reopening plan plays out in Lane County. Our employees continue to split schedules and practice social distancing to reduce the risk of infection impacting our workforce and our ability to serve our customers. We are closed to walk-in traffic but remain available to help by phone and email. You may call us at 541-746-1676 or reach us by email at office@RWDonline.net with questions or if you need assistance of any kind.

BUDGET PROCESS

The Rainbow Budget Committee conducted virtual meetings in April and May to consider the proposed budget for the July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 fiscal year. The Budget Committee has recommended a budget to our Board of Commissioners that assumes NO rate increase, in recognition of the challenges many are facing with our struggling economy. The Rainbow Board of Commissioners will finalize the budget after a budget hearing on Wednesday, June 10, at 5:30 pm.

WATER SYSTEM OPERATIONS

During the spring, we check our equipment to make sure oil is changed in motors, valves and fire hydrants are operational, and we have enough spare parts and treatment chemicals. As temperatures increase, so does outdoor water usage, requiring us to turn on more wells to keep up. Our storage tanks allow us to meet demands when more water is used than our pumps can supply, and then refill later in the day when people go to bed and pumps can provide some surplus. To help people use water wisely, we have resumed posting weekly watering recommendations on our Facebook page.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Our **2020 Annual Water Quality Report**, which summarizes the results of our water testing with data from 2019, is available online. You may view the report under our website's Water Quality menu, or by entering this URL: <http://www.rwdonline.net/2020RainbowReport.pdf>

Did you know? Lead in drinking water comes mostly from materials associated with home service lines and plumbing, which Rainbow cannot control. We have some ability to improve the quality of the water at the source, and our Chase Wellfield treatment upgrades allow us to raise the pH and reduce the potential for corrosion. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may reduce your potential exposure by flushing your tap for 1-2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking that has been sitting for several hours. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from www.epa.gov/safewater/lead or the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (1-800-426-4791).

We consider it an honor to still serve you today. We appreciate our customers!

Find us on the web at www.RWDonline.net or use the [Facebook](#) link for Rainbow-Water-District.