



CITY OF JENKS

211 NORTH ELM STREET • P.O. BOX 2007
JENKS, OKLAHOMA 74037-2007
PHONE (918) 299-5883 • FAX (918) 299-4489

TO THE CITIZENS AND BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE CITY OF JENKS

Touted as one of the best places to live (*Money Magazine*, 2007), a place you can do just about everything you can do on a cruise, except get seasick (*Southern Living*, 2008), a booming suburb combining small-town appeal with big-city entertainment and amenities (*Oklahoma Today*, 2009), and going from turn-of-the-century small town to today's vibrant city (*Relocate America*, 2009), Jenks has evolved into the amazing City you see today!

However, it wasn't always this way. As a small town in 1963, Jenks' population was small and its needs were small. Among those needs was a public water system. The public water system of the early 60's era fulfilled the needs of the original town site (inside the levee) and consisted of two-inch pipes installed a block at a time as funds became available. Due to high costs, enhanced features such as isolation valves were not included. Isolation valves – valves that can be manually turned on and off to isolate impacts from breaks in water lines – were a luxury Jenks couldn't afford.

During Jenks' progression, inadequate lines within the original water system were upgraded to four-inch pipes. But once again, isolation valves were limited due to cost. The ability to shut down and isolate breaks within the original water system remained very limited. As time went by, the City progressed to its standard of today which requires a six-inch minimum line to be used in new installations. And isolation valves are now a standard of the public water system within the City of Jenks.

During previous upgrades, fire hydrants were installed throughout the original system connecting two-inch lines to four-inch lines. Then as more improvements were made to keep up with Jenks' growth, six-inch lines were installed and connected to the existing two-inch and four-inch lines. Larger lines meant greater pressures and larger hydrants being connected to the old two-inch and four-inch lines of yester-year, still with few options to manually control isolation during breaks/repairs.

The project currently underway on "A" Street involves relocation of the water line and installation of a new drainage system. A newly designed water line is being installed to replace sections of the original system. The new drainage infrastructure will solve long-time flooding problems. The contractor is working diligently to avoid old water lines, but unforeseen problems often occur when dealing with old systems, particularly one that has reached its 46th year in existence. Since minimal, if any, records were maintained years ago during the various installation phases, workers today are often working with the unknown.

When a break occurs, the process can be time-consuming to locate, control and conduct repairs. Jenks' Public Works Department is working closely with the contractor to ensure breaks are kept to a minimum, and repairs are completed as quickly as possible. Typically, the most time-consuming process is pumping water from the site while preventing it from flowing to other areas and creating additional problems. The Public Works Department maintains a sufficient supply of parts on-hand at all times; therefore, actual repair times are very brief once the area of the break is cleared properly.

Whenever possible, advance notice will be given to the citizens of water shut-offs. Due to the nature of this project, service interruptions are occurring that are uncontrollable. Be assured the water outages that have been occurring are not due to neglect or carelessness by Contractor or Public Works personnel.

Interruptions in service will be as few and short in duration as possible as Jenks and its Public Works Department strive to provide up-to-date amenities to its citizens. We ask everyone for patience and understanding during the construction project.

As a precaution, all residents and business owners are advised to maintain sufficient supplies of bottled water for future water service interruptions.