



West Morgan – East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority (WMEL) Provides Town of Courtland Customers with Project Update

Decatur, Alabama, April XX, 2021: The mission of the West Morgan – East Lawrence Water and Sewer Authority (WMEL) is to provide quality water and customer service to all of our customers. With that mission in mind, WMEL is announcing today it sent a letter to all Town of Courtland customer accounts to update them on the important steps taken to improve their services.

In 2020, WMEL worked with Town of Courtland leaders to help them apply for a Community Development Block Grant from the State of Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs (ADECA) to address the aged infrastructure. The customer letters detail how Courtland was awarded a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant by the ADECA and how, to help with the project, WMEL is contributing \$142,000 to the effort.

WMEL is informing customers that it will begin the first of four biennial (every two years) phases of construction work to replace Courtland’s water system. When the work is completed, all of the residents of Courtland will be transferred onto the new system. During the four phases of the project work, WMEL will:

- Install several miles of new water mains;
- Transfer customer connections to the new mains;
- Relocate water meters to the public right-of-way;
- Install new water service lines from the meter to every customer’s structure;
- Install new pressure regulators and backflow preventers at every customer’s structure;
- Conduct driveway and roadway repairs related to the construction work; and
- Replace existing fire hydrants.

WMEL believes the Courtland project can set the stage for future work with other communities. “We hope our partnership with Courtland establishes a working model for collaboration that can be repeated in other areas having similar issues with their water infrastructure,” said Jeaniece Slater, WMEL General Manager.

The customer letters were also sent to initially inform Courtland customers how, when work takes place on their phase of the project, their water service will likely be impacted for short periods of time. WMEL will notify customers individually before the disruptions take place.

On WMEL’s website – www.wmel.org – a page has been created to provide the public with important details about the entire project, including maps showing customers where each of the four phases of work will be conducted. Customers can also contact WMEL with questions about the project at [EMAIL YOU WANT TO USE].

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