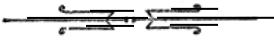

MAYOR _____ DALE THOMPSON
CITY CLERK ____ PAMELA TOMPKINS
TREASURER ____ BECKY GREEN

CITY OF
CHEROKEE, KANSAS



COUNCIL MEMBERS
DUSTIN WHEELER
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To the Citizens of Cherokee:

June 9, 2021

The City of Cherokee is once again going to start fixing water valves. It is a process that must be done and we are sorry for any inconvenience this will cause. This is going to be done the week of **July 12-16** from 8 am until 5 pm, the whole town could be without water for hours at a time and could be under a Boil Advisory. The water will hopefully be on every evening so you will be able to shower and reserve water to flush toilets. You will not be able to drink the water while under a boil order. The City Maintenance Crew and the Mayor have been working hard on a plan to re-build all the water valves and replace the old steel bolts with stainless steel bolts that do not rust.

Our Water System was originally constructed in 1895, extended in 1910 and updated in 1988-1989 when the Water Treatment Plant was added. There was also a new Water line added in 1990. At the time this construction was being done, the Contractor chose to use Cor-Ten steel bolts which probably saved the City \$500 - \$1000. Unfortunately, these bolts tend to rust and deteriorate when used in the ground and can break or the heads rust off. With the shifting of the ground and water pressure, these bolts can "pop" and the top of the water valve will separate and a water leak occurs. When this happens, many gallons of high pressure water will shoot out of the valve. When one valve fails, you can use other water valves to isolate the leak. But when the other valves are no longer operable, it is not possible to isolate other sections of town. The only way to re-pair these valves is to shut-off the Water Tower so the crew can work without being under water. When a valve breaks, our workers try to work as fast and as safely as they can and still fix it correctly. So far the crew has replaced 5-10 out of over 100 valves. **We hope to do 10-15 more of these this year we will only do this for one week in 2021 unless another problem come up.**

The breaking of a valve can cause a loss of pressure in the Water System and this results in a loss of chlorine residuals and bacterial contamination. That leads to KDHE announcing a Boil Water Advisory for our residents and the districts we sell water to. Only KDHE can rescind the Boil Order after testing has been performed at a certified laboratory.

In the event of a Boil Advisory we post notices on Public Bulletin Boards, notify the TV and radio stations and schools, etc. We will also post notices on the City Website: cityofcherokees.com. In an effort to contact as many residents as possible, we would like to have current phone numbers for all our residents on file. Please contact City Hall as soon as possible to update your records. We apologize for the inconvenience of being without water and having to be under a Boil Order. We appreciate everyone's patience in this ongoing project.

Sincerely,

Dale Thompson, Mayor