



City offers warranty for water lines

Optional program no cost to city, no public funds used

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The city of Aberdeen is introducing an optional program to Aberdeen homeowners that helps pay for repairs to residential water lines.

The program is provided through the National League of Cities, and is administered by Service Line Warranties of America. Aberdeen residents will see offers in their mail boxes soon.

“The Service Line Warranty program provides low cost, worry-free warranty protection for residential water lines,” according to a news release from the city.

“Many citizens are unaware that they are responsible for the water lines that go from the point of utility maintenance to their houses. If these lines break or leak, repairs can be very expensive,” city manager Lynn Lander said in the news release.

When a line breaks, the cost to repair it can often cause hardship on a family’s budget. This new program will offer warranty protection to help cover the costs of a break, according to the release. In addition, the program offers a 24-hour repair hotline and the use of local, certified technicians.

The cost for citizens who choose to purchase the warranty protection is \$6.75 per month, and will cover water line repairs up to \$4,000, plus an additional \$500 for public sidewalk cutting, if needed.

The program is offered at no cost to the city of Aberdeen, and no public funds are used to promote the program.

A list of frequently asked questions may be found at www.aberdeen.sd.us.

Answers to those questions say that Service Line Warranties of America is independently owned and operated and no city official, employee or relative receives any personal compensation whatsoever. “In other words, no one in your city is participating for personal gain.”

The group does offer the city compensation for allowing the use of the city seal on the letter, according to the site. “Why? The support of the city alerts residents of the legitimacy of the program resulting in more enrollments, which in turn allows SLWA to offer a lower price to the city’s residents because of the increased participation.”

The program offers several benefits for the city, according to the site: It educates residents of their service line responsibility; the program uses local contractors; and all repairs are performed to code and appropriate permitting is used.

For questions regarding this new service line warranty program, contact public works director Robin Bobzien at 605-626-7017.