



NEWS RELEASE
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NEW ICE AGE TO HIT SPARTANBURG

Spartanburg Water System Setting Up Clean, Green Ice Machines

April 22, 2008 – (Spartanburg, SC) – It’s not the latest animated movie or an extreme drop in temperature, but something new is on the horizon for Spartanburg and the surrounding area. The Spartanburg Water System (SWS) will soon be delivering its product in a new form – frozen. SWS is getting into the ice business as a natural extension of its role of water provider to the region.

SWS is investing in “ice houses” that will provide freshly made, bagged ice for emergency, recreational, and household use. Sue G. Schneider, General Manager of SWS, notes, “This is an innovative way to offset some of our operational costs. We’re just selling the water that we already produce at a lower temperature. We expect that the program will actually help balance the rising costs of providing clean, safe water. The bonus for our community is access to ice day or night, similar to the convenience of an ATM, and it isn’t trucked in from some other part of the country.”

On April 28th, three ice houses will be set up around Spartanburg in locations that are already convenient to residents, such as grocery stores, discount retailers, and apartment complexes, and will be connected directly to existing SWS water lines. Each ice house is a 200 square-foot modular unit that uses automation to produce, store, bag, and dispense ice to anybody who wants it. Any surfaces that come in contact with the ice are made of 100% food grade stainless steel. Site maintenance (cleaning around the area and restocking bags) usually occurs twice a week; the dispensing equipment is cleaned weekly, and the ice is tested on a regular basis to ensure it meets food grade quality.

The ice itself is chipped, not frozen into one mass, and comes in a 16-lb bag or in 20-lb bulk

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form. The bulk form provides the option of directly filling a cooler or other container, which is ideal for an outing at the lake or a family picnic. The price for a 16-lb bag or 20-lb in bulk will be \$ 1.50. The cost of a typical bag of ice in the Spartanburg area averages about \$3.00 for an 8-lb bag.

“The whole idea behind bagged ice is convenience. SWS is making it even more convenient and less expensive. We know that not everyone has an ice maker in their home. Or maybe they just need a large quantity,” Schneider adds. “Just as important to us though are the clean and green factors. This ice is never touched by human hands until it gets to the end user. Also, it’s made from locally produced water, so users can be assured of the source and feel good knowing that their ice didn’t burn more fuel or put more trucks on the road.”

Beyond recreational uses, the ice will also come in handy during natural disasters or for emergency responders or construction crews working in the heat. Around the house, it can help keep drinks cold and food preserved. In an emergency, the ice can even be used to help lower a high temperature. And all of this comes with vending machine convenience, ready when needed.

The mission of Spartanburg Water is to provide high quality water and wastewater services to the Spartanburg region in a reliable manner. SWS is proudly committed to protecting public health, being good stewards of the environment, and supporting the community’s desired quality of life.

Spartanburg Water
An Award Winning Utility!

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