

August 29, 2022

Berthoud's Buoy

In early 2022, the Town of Berthoud applied for a Larimer County Immediate Needs Grant. The goal was to purchase and install an ultrasonic treatment unit in the reservoir that holds the Town's drinking water. Berthoud is known for many things; the fresh taste of its water in the springtime is not one of them. The Town won the grant in May, and in June, the self-contained, solar-powered ultrasonic buoy was deployed. While dangerous, blue-green algae blooms have been reported in our area through the hot summer months, the east cell of the Berthoud Reservoir is bright and clear. Because the ultrasonic buoy's technology and capabilities are so interesting, the Town created a contest to give it a name. Director of Water Utilities, Ken Matthews says, "It's an impressive feat of engineering that one little buoy can make such a big impact on the quality of the drinking water for a whole town." He continues, "We are currently holding a naming contest hoping that people will take the time to learn a little bit about it and maybe even inspire the next generation of water engineers." In essence, the single grant has not only afforded Berthoud fresher tasting water, but the effects could ripple out and be the catalyst for children to get interested in water robots now and become engineers in the future.

