

Lake Forest College Archives and Special Collections

Finding Aid - City of Lake Forest Water Works 1891-1955 1891-1938 (SC/022)

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City of Lake Forest Water Works 1891-1955 1891-1938

Table of contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary information | 3 |
| Administrative history / Biographical sketch | 3 |
| Scope and content | 3 |
| Arrangement | 4 |
| Notes | 4 |
| Series descriptions | 4 |

Summary information

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| Repository: | Lake Forest College Archives and Special Collections |
| Title: | City of Lake Forest Water Works 1891-1955 1891-1938 |
| ID: | SC/022 |
| Physical description: | 2.00 |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

The Lake Forest Water Company began operation in 1891, pumping water from Lake Michigan up to the town and its individual home estates. George Holt, son of town founder D.R. Holt, was the president for a long term, but by the early 20th C. there were complaints about water rates, and later about water pressure.

After 1921 the City took over operation of the Water Works and service, expanding it with a bond issue in the mid 1920s and then again in 1930, following the economic expansion of Chicago. Many citizens for this reason had seasonal homes in Lake Forest. The Garden Club of Illinois, Lake Forest and Winnetka, was organized in 1912, and by 1922 the Lake Forest Garden Club was a central force for garden development locally.

Scope and content

The collection consists of records of the Lake Forest Water Company when it was founded in 1891, the papers of its subsidiaries through 1921, and when it became the City of Lake Forest's Water Works unit in 1921 to 1938, with some records as late as 1955.

The records include a very detailed ledger book listing early estates, indicating the scale of listings of equipment/outlets, and it also lists owners, locations, and changes of ownership in that period. Other major materials in the collection include studies carried out for the city of Lake Forest by the Chicago-based engineering firm of Pearse, Greeley & Hansen, local correspondence, records, and documents for the city department in the 1920s-1930s, and in one case in 1955.

The collection additionally shows the relationships with state and federal authorities, including the WPA and relates the general growing need for water from the lake by the increasing number of estates and North Shore suburbs.

Notes

Title notes

Immediate source of acquisition

Donation, ca. 1990s, as conveyed to Mrs. Paddock, a local historian, many years ago by anonymous city staff when material was to be informally deaccessioned/removed.

Arrangement

The collection is stored in three boxes. It is arranged mainly by subject, but dates are included and can be found upon request if desired. It should also be noted that Box 3 holds the larger sized items including the Commercial Sales Ledger-See Box listings for more details.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
- **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:66

Series descriptions

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|----------------|--|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| SC/022-B01/F01 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Water Company | 1891-1921 | | 1 1 |
| SC/022-B01/F02 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works Investigation | 1923 | | 1 2 |
| SC/022-B01/F03 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Report on Water Works-Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen | Dec. 1923 | | 1 3 |
| SC/022-B01/F04 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1924-1925 | | 1 4 |
| SC/022-B01/F05 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1926 | | 1 5 |
| SC/022-B01/06 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1927 | | 1 6 |
| SC/022-B01/F07 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1928 | | 1 7 |
| SC/022-B01/F08 | Otherlevel - Report and Appendices of 1930 Water Supply and Distribution System Studies | | | 1 8 |
| SC/022-B01/F09 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen Report on 1930 Water Supply and Distribution System Studies | | | 1 9 |
| SC/022-B01/F10 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1931 | | 1 10 |

| | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------------|------|
| SC/022-B01/F11 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1932 | 1 11 |
| SC/022-B01/F12 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1933 | 1 12 |
| SC/022-B01/F13 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1934 | 1 13 |
| SC/022-B01/F14 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1935 | 1 14 |
| SC/022-B01/F15 | Otherlevel - Pearse, Greeley, and Hansen-Lake Forest Water Works | 1937-1938 | 1 15 |
| SC/022-B02/F01 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Water Dept.- Comparative Income and Expense Sheet | 1922-1924 | 2 1 |
| SC/022-B02/F02 | Otherlevel - Water Plant, 1924 City Election, Comm. of Civic Administration Publications Documents | | 2 2 |
| SC/022-B02/F03 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Waterworks- Bonds | 1929 | 2 3 |
| SC/022-B02/F04 | Otherlevel - Public Service "Electric" with Water Company | 1919-1933 | 2 4 |
| SC/022-B02/F05 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Water Works Contract/Suppliers | | 2 5 |
| SC/022-B02/F06 | Otherlevel - West Lake Forest Water Contracts | 1927-1937 | 2 6 |
| SC/022-B02/F07 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Water Works- Papers pertaining to Breakwater | | 2 7 |
| SC/022-B02/F08 | Otherlevel - Bids and Proposals- Advertising Notices | | 2 8 |
| SC/022-B02/F09 | Otherlevel - Newspaper Clippings and Related Papers-Lake Forest Water Dept. | | 2 9 |
| SC/022-B02/F10 | Otherlevel - Pressure Concerns and Statistics | 1920s-1930s | 2 10 |
| SC/022-B02/F11 | Otherlevel - Lawrence Dunlap Smith | 1928-1931 | 2 11 |
| SC/022-B02/F12 | Otherlevel - Water Department Real Estate Property | 1930s-1950s | 2 12 |
| SC/022-B02/F13 | Otherlevel - Water Works "Woes" article and Correspondence | 1927 | 2 13 |
| SC/022-B02/F14 | Otherlevel - Sanitation Files | 1929, 1931, 1934, 1935 | 2 14 |
| SC/022-B02/F15 | Otherlevel - Water Dept. Gasoline Engines | 1922 | 2 15 |
| SC/022-B02/F16 | Otherlevel - Bids-Lake Forest High School | June 13, 1934 | 2 16 |
| SC/022-B02/F17 | Otherlevel - West Shore Water Producers Association | 1934-1939~ | 2 17 |
| SC/022-B02/F18 | Otherlevel - PWA Data-Lake Forest Water Works/Dept. of Water | | 2 18 |
| SC/022-B02/F19 | Otherlevel - Papers from Director of Waterways and Dept. of Public Health, State of Illinois | | 2 19 |
| SC/022-B02/F20 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Permits | | 2 20 |
| SC/022-B03/F01 | Otherlevel - Election of 1926 Water Works Bond Issue | | 3 1 |
| SC/022-B03/F02 | Otherlevel - Lake Forest Water Works Bids | | 3 2 |

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|----------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----|
| SC/022-B03/F03 | Otherlevel - Papers on Greenbay Road- Deerpath to Onwentsia | 1931 | 3 3 |
| SC/022-B03/F04 | Otherlevel - K24 Anderson Middlefork(?) Survey Map | | 3 4 |
| SC/022-B03/F05 | Otherlevel - Federal Emergency Program | Sept. 26, 1933 to June 1, 1934 | 3 5 |
| SC/022-B03/F06 | Otherlevel - State Tax Forms and Refunds (1 of 2) | | 3 6 |
| SC/022-B03/F07 | Otherlevel - State Tax Forms and Refunds (2 of 2) | | 3 7 |
| SC/022-B03/F08 | Otherlevel - Grant Application and Supporting Data Folders | | 3 8 |
| SC/022-B03/I01 | Item - Hardbound Book of Commercial Sales | Jan. 1, 1898 to Jan. 1, 1902 | 3 |