

## **ADD A VALVE—SAVE SOME MONEY**

Many residents of Cedar Key leave for extended periods of time, and many do not turn the water off to their houses when they leave. If during their absence a water leak develops either inside or outside the house, the owner will have a very large water and sewer bill upon return, and may also have serious damage to the house.

To avoid this potential cost, the water to a house should be shut off prior to an extended leave. This can be done at the water meter, but the District strongly recommends against this method. Attempting to turn off the water at the meter without the proper tool can result in leaks and/or damage to the meter.

The proper way to turn off water to a house is by way of a shutoff valve installed between the water meter and the house. Many houses in Cedar Key already have such valves, and they should be used to turn off the water prior to an extended leave. If your house does not have a shutoff valve, it is recommended that you install one so that water can be easily shut off to your house. Not only will this valve allow you to shut the water off prior to an extended leave, it also provides a quick way to shut the water off if a leak occurs while you're at your home, or if you need the water off to do plumbing work.

The shutoff valve should be installed on your side of the water meter, preferably close to the meter to reduce the area where a leak can occur after the water goes through the meter. If you have any questions about this, please call the District at 352-543-5285.

