



**Thurston
Public Utility District**

JANUARY 2009 NEWSLETTER



EXTREME WEATHER

We are happy to announce that we didn't experience any major problems due to the snow or flooding so far this winter. This shows that our operations crew was doing their job and had your systems winterized and ready to handle the cold weather. Hooray to the crew.

Meter reading was another story. It was hard to read meters when they were under a foot of snow and it was next to impossible to reach some of our systems when the roads were flooded. So with that in mind, we did have to estimate some meter reads for the months of December (Tanglewilde) and January (McCleary area). If you feel your bill is not correct, please give us a call at (360) 357-8783.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS REPORT

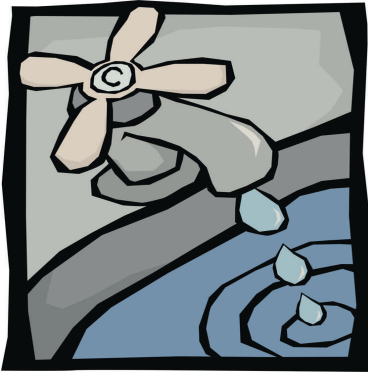
Over the past 12 months we have completed several major capital improvement projects to include:

1. Evergreen Vista #308, Manganese Treatment, Operational on January 15, 2009
2. Elk Heights #247, Manganese Treatment, Operational on January 15, 2009
3. Pleasant Valley #307, Iron and Manganese Treatment, Operational on January 15, 2009
4. Lazy Acres #351, Replacement of Lazy St. Pump House
5. Little Donkey #227, Replacement of Pump House
6. N. Roy #309, Replacement of Pump House, Source Meter and new Electrical Board
7. Tanglewilde #600, Replacement of 400 Meters over 15 years old
8. Eastridge West #344, Replace Iron Treatment System
9. Tanglewilde #600, Redevelopment of Temporary Well (Gaudio)
10. Nisqually Highlands #364, Well Pump Replacement
11. WHCI (Whitney) #515, Upgrade Booster Pump
12. Replaced 4 pumps, 15 pressure tanks, and service lines in 7 locations

Projects Planned for 2009 & 2010 are listed below:

1. Terry Lane #354, Removing the Electrical Panel From the Underground Vault
2. Covington #212, Arsenic Mitigation Project, 2009
3. 200th #243, Upgrade Storage, 2009
4. Aust #210, Corrosion Control, 2009
5. Tanglewilde #600, Source & Reservoir, Engineering and Design in 2009; Construction in 2010
6. Isolation Valve Maintenance, Multiple Systems, 2009
7. Tanglewilde #600, Service Lines and Other Maintenance, 2009
8. Rebuild Three (3) Pump Houses, 2009
9. Clean Five (5) Reservoirs, 2009
10. Repair or Replace Multiple Flow Transmitters for 20 Chemical Injection Pumps





CONSERVATION TIPS

- Wash clothes only when you have a full load and save up to 600 gallons each month.
- Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.
- Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons a month.

Tanglewilde Projects Update

There have been many favorable developments in the planned Tanglewilde-Thompson Place water system improvements.

In 2008, the PUD began looking into potential well site locations in order to reduce the amount of water purchased from the City of Olympia. We have rehabilitated one of the original wells from the early 1960's and it has proven to be a very clean source of water.

You may have noticed the irrigation of the park next to the Tanglewilde Recreation Building this fall. In order to protect the community's water rights, we needed to insure the water was being actively used for "municipal use" as defined by law. Lawn watering kept the well active while the PUD waited for approval to integrate the water into Tanglewilde's water distribution system.

In January, the Washington State Department of Health gave the PUD approval to tie this existing well into the Tanglewilde distribution system. This allows us to pump enough water into the system to save us \$34,000 in purchased water costs from the City of Olympia in 2009.

Over the next 2 years, the PUD plans to drill 2 or 3 additional wells, replace the reservoir adjacent to Lydia Hawk Elementary School, and replace large sections of water distribution mains and service lines. The result of all of this is to provide the communities of Tanglewilde and Thompson Place their own water source while reducing or eliminating the need to purchase Olympia's water at premium prices. Further, we hope to increase the pressure in certain areas and reduce the amount of water loss currently experienced. The combined cost of these projects is expected to be almost \$4,000,000.

In order to pay for these improvements and stabilize rates over time, the PUD has applied for various grants and low interest loans. We have been approved for a grant of \$1,475,634 and expect to get the balance of the funds through low interest loans (1½ %) that can be repaid over 20 years. Our goal is to keep water rates as low as possible while reinvesting and rebuilding your water system's infrastructure.

Commissioner Corner



**Commissioner
Christopher Stearns,
District 3**

On January 1, 2009, Commissioner Chris Stearns began his six year term. He has been a resident of Thurston County since 1976 and was elected to his first term in the 2008 election. Chris has a background as a Fisheries Biologist having worked for Washington's Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (W.D.F.W.), the N.W. Indian Fisheries Commission and local Tribes. Commissioner Stearns has extensive experience surveying Puget Sound for Forage Fish (Herring, Smelt and Sand Lance) spawning sites along our shorelines. He helped initialize work with the state to help delineate critical salmon and steelhead freshwater habitat features depicted on maps. Chris also won a "Team Award" in 2003 for his efforts for W.D.F.W.'s Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Inventory and Assessment Program throughout the entire southern portion of our state. Commissioner Stearns has remained a tireless advocate for the use of promising bioremediation technologies, already in use for oil spills in this state, to restore the aquatic life of Puget Sound. Commissioner Stearns brings a lot of energy to the PUD and can be reached at (360) 866-4421 or at foragefisher@yahoo.com.