



Public Utility District No. 1  
of Thurston County

March 2016  
Newsletter



### Commissioners Corner

By Linda Oosterman, District 1

## **Emergency Communications**

When there is a real disaster situation, experts tell us that our cell phone system will not work immediately or for a few days after a major disaster. Thurston PUD recently applied for and was granted two radio frequencies from the Federal Communications Commission. We purchased radio equipment and are in the process of setting up an emergency communications system that will allow us to communicate internally, with our after-hours call center, with other water utilities, and with County Emergency Operations Centers. This system will be operational by Fall and will help us support you, our water customers, during significant emergencies and disasters.



## **Aging Infrastructure in Your Home**

Just as your water system's infrastructure is aging, so is your home's infrastructure. The PUD is responsible for the infrastructure up to your water meter. Between your home and the water meter is your responsibility. If the line from your home to the meter fails, it is your responsibility to get it repaired or replaced. We would like to encourage you to consider planning to replace it just like you would your hot water heater, your furnace or your roof. One of the worst things that can happen is to have your water service line to your home break at a time when you can least afford to replace it or at an inconvenient time for you and your family. If your service line is made of galvanized pipe, it should be replaced when the line is approximately thirty years old. If your service line is made of copper or polyethylene, it should be checked for replacement when it is 50 years old. If you have a break in your service line and it has to be repaired, we recommend replacing the entire service line.

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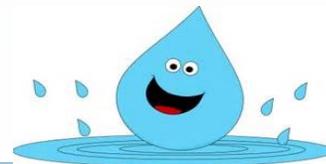
## We Need Your Help

Just as a reminder, if you change your phone number, email address or any other contact information, please contact our customer service department so we can update your account. We only use this information for Thurston PUD related business. For example if we need to shut your water system down for an emergency, repair or system maintenance, we need to have your current information in order to contact you. We also place reminder calls to those customers who have a past due balance on their account to remind them to bring their account current so they do not get disconnected. **You can reach our Customer Service Department at (866) 357-8783.** Your help is greatly appreciated!

## Employee Spotlight: Gary Cahill



Gary had been with Thurston PUD for just over a year. Prior to working for the PUD, Gary worked at various golf courses and owned and operated his own landscape business. Gary's hobbies include hunting, fishing and spending time with his children.



## Wise Water Conservation Tips for Spring

Use these simple tips to save water and money this spring while getting your yard back in shape:

**Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, hose connections, toilets, and faucets.** Even a tiny leak can translate into thousands of gallons of wasted water over a short period of time. Repair or replace any equipment leaking water immediately.

### **Use shut-off nozzles on hoses**

Use nozzles which completely turn off the water when you are not using it; they also help to more effectively direct water than using your finger to create a stream.

### **Prioritize Your Springtime Watering Needs Outdoors**

Now is a great time for you to prioritize the watering needs of all outdoor plants and trees. Take the time to determine which area of your yard needs the most water.

### **Keep weeds out of flower and vegetable gardens**

Weeds begin to appear around springtime and warmer weather. Weeds are notorious for stealing water away from other plants, so if you'll keep their populations in check, you won't have to water as often. With lawns, remove weeds by hand whenever possible to avoid tough competition.

### **Capture and recycle rainwater**

Place rain barrels or buckets beneath your downspouts. 1,000 sq. ft. of roof surface will collect 420 gallons of water in every inch of rainfall. You can use rainwater for outdoor plants and trees or to wash your car.