

# Kitsap Connection

A newsletter for customers of Kitsap PUD's drinking water utility March/April 2015



## Under New Management...

### In this issue:

- *KPUD's new GM*
- *Maintenance*
- *Lack thereof*
- *Meet your PUD: Commissioner John Armstrong*
- *Rates*
- *Backflow Prevention*

In December, Kitsap PUD's Board of Commissioners selected Bob Hunter to be General Manager of Kitsap Public Utility District. Bob replaces Dave Siburg, who served as KPUD's GM for 27 years. Bob has worked at Kitsap PUD for 29 years, rising in the ranks from water system operator to Superintendent to, now, General Manager. For the past ten years, Bob has served as the Assistant General Manager.

In addition to his work within the District, Bob has served on numerous state and local committees dealing with water resources and utility services. These positions include:

Chair of the Water Purveyors Association of Kitsap, Chair of Washington PUD Association's Water Committee and Vice Chair of Washington Water Utilities Council's Water Rights Committee.

Said KPUD Board President, Jim Civilla, "We were impressed by other applicants, but Hunter's knowledge, experience and vision with KPUD is critical for this transition. The best applicant was already working for us."

Bob and his wife, Cathi, live in Central Kitsap. They have two grown sons and recently welcomed their third grandson to the family.

## An ounce of prevention...

Water main flushing is an important part of water system maintenance; especially for systems, like ours, that use groundwater as a source. Typically groundwater is high in mineral content. Over time, these minerals build up inside the water system pipes, reducing their capacity. Flushing removes mineral buildup and keeps the system flowing the way it was designed to.

Often, during flushing, customers may notice discolored water. This is the mineral build up that has been flushed free. While not a health concern (like bacteria), this "dirty" water can stain clothes. If you notice dirty water in conjunction with our flushing, please flush your service line by running a hosebib or a bath until the water clears. If the water does not clear after several minutes, call our office.



## ... is worth a pound of cure

In the last newsletter, we discussed some of the challenges facing small water systems. According to the US Environmental Protection Agency, small systems are far more likely to "fail" than are larger, more municipal run, systems. This is because larger systems have an economy of scale advantage and can hire staff to understand and comply with ever more complex regulations. Additionally, municipal providers have greater infrastructure replacement capabilities. The storage tank at the left is from one of those small water system in Kitsap that failed to meet the demands of public water system management. In addition to neglecting infrastructure, the system ran afoul of Safe Drinking Water Act regulations and was placed in a non-compliant status by Washington Department of Health. This made it difficult for property owners to sell their homes. The community petitioned Kitsap PUD to assume the system and make needed improvements. These improvements will be paid for via an assessment to affected property owners.



## Your Public Utility District: John Armstrong, Commissioner



Did you know that Public Utility Districts were formed by Washington's very first citizens initiative, Initiative 1, in 1930? PUD's are—by name and spirit—"public". This public nature is exemplified by a PUD's board; made up of representatives from the community. In the last newsletter, we met Jim Civilla who had just won election to Kitsap PUD's Board. In this issue, we will meet John Armstrong, KPUD Commissioner from North Kitsap.

John has been a Kitsap PUD Commissioner since 1992, serving four consecutive terms. In this time he has watched (and helped) the PUD grow

from a handful of small water systems to a regional drinking water manager and provider. During his tenure, the District also began providing wholesale telecommunications services as a member of the Northwest Open Access Network, or NOANet. In this endeavor, the District has installed over 160 miles of broadband cable throughout Kitsap. This cable provides services to over 50 public institutions, first responder offices and health care facilities. *(By law, PUDs are prohibited from providing direct retail telecommunications service.)*

In his time as Kitsap PUD Commissioner, John has participated in various forums on public utility service. These include Washington PUD Association's Legislative Committee and American Water Works Association's Public Officials Committee.

Over John's multiple work careers he has been an architect in New York City, an engineer in the Navy and a manager at Sub Base Bangor.

In addition to his service at Kitsap PUD, John is also active in the American Legion and other civic organizations. He lives in Hansville.

## Backflow Prevention

Backflow refers to the situation whereby water from a customer's service is sucked back into the water distribution system. If this water is from an irrigation system or other hazard, (called a cross-connection) public health can be put at risk. For this reason customers with identified backflow hazards are required to install a backflow prevention device. State law requires that these devices be checked annually by a state certified Backflow Assembly Tester. Every year around March, Kitsap PUD sends letters to owners of backflow prevention devices reminding them of the testing requirement. Also included is a list of certified backflow assembly testers. Customers wishing to can sign up to have Kitsap PUD test their device. Those who elect to have



KPUD do the tests can be enrolled in our auto test program. These customers will not receive reminder letters. The current cost for KPUD to test your backflow prevention device is \$40. For more information contact Nick Bayard at 360-626-7741. Washington's cross-connection control regulations are codified in WAC 246-290-490.

### Kitsap PUD

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### 2015 water rates

Kitsap PUD has a "tiered" rate structure. In this, the cost of water goes up with usage. A Basic Service Charge, together with Tiers 1 and 2 are meant to provide surety to water system operations while ensuring reasonable water usage remains affordable to Kitsap's households. Tiers 3 and 4 are structured to encourage conservation and recoup additional capital improvement funds from high-water users.

**Rates shown below are for a typical residential service.**

#### Basic Service Charge

\$24.00 (monthly)  
\$48.00 (per 2-month billing)

#### Commodity Charge

**Tier 1** (0-1,400 cubic feet)  
\$01.10 per 100 cubic feet\*

**Tier 2** (1,401—2,400 cubic feet)  
\$1.50 per 100 cubic feet

**Tier 3** (2,401—4,000 cubic feet)  
\$2.25 per 100 cubic feet

**Tier 4** (over 4,000 cubic feet)  
\$5.00 per 100 cubic feet

*\*100 cubic feet of water is equal to 748 gallons.*