Happy New Year! Water we going to talk about?

I hope 2018 finds you happy, healthy and well hydrated. Of course you probably won’t be the first two without the latter. Water is essential to the well being of our bodies, our communities and our ecosystems. In this issue we will look at some of the current developments, science and fads—yes, fads—in drinking water. First off, I want to start with a tribute to Kitsap PUD’s long-tenured Hydrogeologist, Marty Sebren, and a welcome to our incoming Hydrogeologist, Joel Purdy. Both of these individuals have played significant roles in securing safe, sustainable water supplies for Kitsap’s communities. While this work often takes place out of the spotlight, it is evident every time we turn on our taps. So, without further ado...

You say goodbye, I say hello...

Join me in bidding a fond farewell to Marty Sebren; my friend and Kitsap PUD’s Hydrogeologist for the past 25 years.

Marty (in glasses, smiling like he’s about to retire) came to work for Kitsap PUD in 1993. Prior to that he worked for a private consulting firm and did extensive water resource related work in Kitsap County. In the 1980’s, for example, he oversaw the drilling of several exploratory groundwater wells to help define and understand Kitsap’s groundwater (aquifer) system. He also oversaw construction of many production wells that serve Kitsap’s various water systems and communities.

During his time at Kitsap PUD, Marty has helped design and manage our water resources monitoring network and associated data. This network and data (which the incoming Hydrogeologist says is amongst the best in the state) informs studies (like the USGS reports discussed last newsletter) and resource management decisions (like regional drinking water infrastructure). He chaired the Seabeck Technical Advisory Committee that oversees use of regional source water from Kitsap’s wet southwest area. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, he kept you—and other communities—in water. When summer drawdowns (typical of our area) threatened a community’s source well, he developed backup supplies. When a source well had a problem (pumps go out, screens foul), he oversaw the fix. Again, many of us have Marty to thank when we turn on a tap and have good, clean water to drink. Very much of the world, always remember, does not have that.

Says our General Manager, Bob Hunter, “Marty has been a great teacher to me, personally, on how Kitsap’s hydrology works. I will miss our conversations.”

I have pondered how best to say goodbye to Marty (at least as a coworker). Again, I have worked with him for 25 years. I hope he knows he is loved, respected and will be missed. Maybe the best way to say so long is to raise a glass of water. Join me. To Marty. With gratitude and best wishes for a joyful future.

And now, join me in welcoming Joel Purdy (without glasses, smiling like a man with several years left...) to Kitsap PUD.

Like Marty, Joel comes to us from a private consulting firm that has done extensive work in Kitsap County. Also like Marty, he has overseen the drilling of exploratory and municipal supply wells throughout the County and has participated in many studies of our water resources. In short, Joel steps in well-versed in the hydrogeology of Kitsap. We feel fortunate to have him.

At Kitsap PUD, Joel will serve as the District’s Hydrogeologist and Manager of Groundwater Resources. In this he will oversee data management, help maintain source-well functionality and serve as an important point of contact for water resource related issues. Welcome, Joel. I hope you have as successful a stay as your predecessor.

Beside helping ensure the customers of Kitsap PUD have safe, sustainable water, Kitsap PUD’s Hydrogeologist—whether Marty or Joel—oversees a comprehensive data collection system that helps further the understanding and management of Kitsap’s groundwater system.
In the intro, I said we would discuss developments, science and fads having to do with drinking water. We’ve already discussed a development in the changing of Hydrogeologists at Kitsap PUD. As for the science and fads...

**Science: The health benefits of drinking water.**

Was one of your New Year resolutions to “drink more water”? If so, good for you. Literally.

I recently read an article discussing the health benefits of drinking water. Many health experts recommend a person drink eight 8-ounce glasses per day. This is roughly a half gallon. Of course, this varies by individual (and approximately 20% of that goal is acquired via solid foods like fruits and vegetables). This water influences every system in our body. It:

- regulates our body temperature,
- keeps our joints lubricated,
- helps prevent infections, and
- provides nutrients to our cells.

In addition, drinking water can:

- help with weight loss,
- help prevent migraines,
- help you sleep better, and
- improve your mood.


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**Fad? The Bottled Water “Craze”.** 15% of People Only Drink Bottled Water. So said the headline of another article I recently read. In this it says the average American has gone from consuming 1.5 gallons of bottled water in 1976 to over 39 gallons (per year) today. According to a study cited in the article, Americans now drink more bottled water than they do milk or beer! Most of this comes, as you know, via single serving plastic containers. While more and more of these are made of recyclable materials, one cannot dispute the environmental consequences of the bottled water craze. And, oh by the way...

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**There’s “craze” and there’s crazy...** I recently discovered a new fad in drinking water: “raw” water. Raw water is water that has been bottled, untreated, from a natural spring. While “bottled from a natural spring” might sound healthy, the “untreated” part has raised concerns amongst public health officials. Advocates claim raw water contains beneficial probiotics and that treatment strips these out. Health officials say untreated water is just as likely to contain disease causing microorganisms and that water treatment has been one of the greatest public health advances in history. The really crazy part of this story? “Raw” water is selling for around $15 a gallon.

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**2017 Water Rates**

2017 Rates shown below are for a typical residential service. Remember: KPUD bills on a bi-monthly basis.

**Basic Service Charge**

$24.25 (monthly)
$48.50 (per 2-month billing)

**Commodity Charge**

Tier 1 (0—1,400 cubic feet)
$1.20 per 100 cubic feet*

Tier 2 (1,401—2,400 cubic feet) $1.60 per 100 cubic feet

Tier 3 (2,401—4,000 cubic feet) $2.50 per 100 cubic feet

Tier 4 (over 4,000 cubic feet) $6.00 per 100 cubic feet

*100 cubic feet equals 748 gallons

**Kitsap Water Trivia**

Given the raw water article, I will replay this... The West Sound Stormwater Outreach Group—which consists of Kitsap County and the cities of Port Orchard, Bremerton, Poulsbo and Bainbridge Island—has reported that 11,000 pounds (over 5 tons!) of pet waste is deposited EVERY DAY on the ground in Kitsap County. This waste runs into our streams, lakes and Puget Sound.

If you have a pet, please dispose of their waste properly. Further, for information on sponsoring a “Mutt Mitt” station in your neighborhood, visit http://www.cleanwaterkitsap.org/Pages/Mutt-Mitt-Program.aspx

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**Don't forget to HYDRATE!**