

# WET GAZETTE

2016 FALL EDITION

Valley Water District  
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Puyallup WA 98372

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**From the desk of Betty Vance, District Manager**

### OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS

Board of Commissioner meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at the District Office. Dates are subject to change from the regular pattern. Please confirm by calling the office or checking the website for change announcements. Ratepayers are encouraged to attend open and public board meetings.

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## Surplus Sales

After the approval by the Valley Water District Board of Commissioners, the District advertises to have a silent auction for surplus items twice a year.

Auctions are usually held in May and October. Be sure to check our website for a list of items to be auctioned off. Notice of auction are advertised on our website and in the Puyallup Harold newspaper.

Do not hesitate to call our office with any questions you may have.



### Valley Water District Commissioners

Robert Fulton

Christine Johnson

Ted Hardiman

**Valley Water District - a local government that works without taxes!**

## We are online at:

VALLEYWATERDISTRICT.COM



### Call Before You Dig— It's the Law!

As a homeowner, business owner, farmer, or excavator, you are required by law to make contact with underground facility owners through a one-number locator service, before you excavate. Just dial 8-1-1 to reach the regional One Call Center. The District does not locate your private water lines beyond the meter.

# BLUE

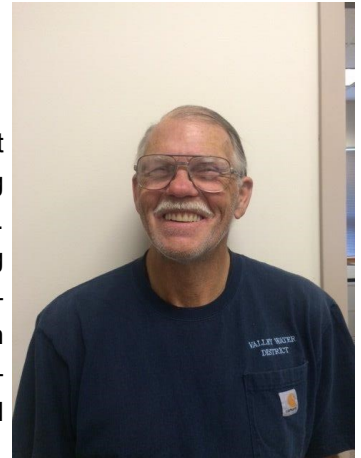
## WATER LINE MARKERS

....or survey stakes are placed on easements or right-of-ways for the District's reference as to where underground lines exist. Removal of these stakes impairs the District's ability to make repairs in a safe and timely fashion.

## Meet Paul Huseby

### Field Maintenance Technician

It is not uncommon for Valley Water District to get a call from a passer by or resident complimenting us for the excellent condition of our fire hydrants. We can thank our dedicated and hard working summer help, Paul Huseby for this. For 8 summers, this retired Vietnam Veteran has been with us completing maintenance tasks such as clearing easements, upkeep on facility grounds and painting the hydrants within our systems.



Paul retired in '84 from the Army after 20 years of service, having served in Vietnam earning a bronze medal. He stays active enjoying hobbies such as bowling, gunsmithing and target shooting. He is an excellent marksman having won several competitions. Paul and his wife have been long time residents in the area and enjoy living in the Northwest.

When asked what his favorite part of his job is, he simply replies "all of it". Paul likes working, and whatever task is given to him, he is meticulous to complete it with excellence. He doesn't just paint the hydrants in our system— he disassembles the parts, wire-brushing the threads, ensuring they are easy to spot and they function properly for the fire departments that use them.

# Right-of-Ways & Utility Easements

Valley Water District water meters, fire hydrants, and valve control boxes are located on Pierce County right-of-ways or public utility easements. The District has the legal right and sole responsibility for the operation and maintenance of all water system devices in these areas.

Homeowners are advised to call the office before erecting a fence or shed, or starting a landscape project that is planned in any area that comes near an easement or right-of-way. The District prefers to work with the customer during planning to prevent any discrepancy.

If accessibility to district property has been hindered, the homeowner will be required to move the obstruction or the District will bill the property owner for the costs to remedy the situation.

Please call the District office if you have any question about the location of water system infrastructure on or near your property.

# Water System Updates

The District is out and about performing preventative and as-needed maintenance every day. This section is for sharing project updates and maintenance highlights with you, the ratepayer.

The District appreciates your cooperation with conservation and use of the summer outdoor watering conservation calendar, which has a great effect on well performance and water system reliability.

As a whole the District continues to grow. We have recently put together a photo book and printed posters showing the improvements and maintenance over the last twenty years. We welcome you to come by the office to view these items.

## ALDERWOOD

District crew has replaced the faulty distribution mag meter.

## BUTTES

District crews completed the installation of a security fence around the booster pump station.

## CHINOOK

The Chinook System has been operating trouble free.

## COUNTRY/ELDORADO

District had well #4 pump and motor replaced in the spring. District crew installed new downstream piping and concrete pad for well #4. District crew constructed a containment

wall for spoils and crushed rock storage at the booster pump facility.

## HIGHLANDS

New construction is nearly complete and soon all service connections will be occupied.

## SIERRA

The Sierra system has continued to operate trouble free.

## WINCHESTER

The District replaced the source meter for this system.

## VALLEY

Design is underway for a new well building and storage tank. Construction should begin this winter.

## VIEW ROYAL

The District's Summer Helper has been busy cleaning and painting the fire hydrants in this system. This system has been operating trouble free.

## BUDGET AND RATES

Budget and Rates for the coming year are typically discussed at regular

Board of Commissioner meetings during the months of October and November.

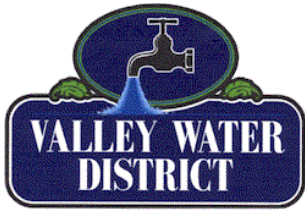
Ratepayers are encouraged to attend these open, public meetings.

First & Third Tuesdays — 7:00 p.m. — District Office

## ***WET GAZETTE***

**IF YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE WAS INSTALLED BY A PRIVATE PARTY- WE HAVE NO RECORDS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF YOUR LINE AND CANNOT REPAIR LINES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. WE DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT THAT LOCATES UNDERGROUND WATER LEAKS. THE PRIVATE LINE IS NOT REGULATED OR INSPECTED BY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT.**





### **Mission Statement**

To provide safe and reliable water to all of the District's customers.

WE'RE ONLINE AT  
VALLEYWATERDISTRICT.COM

### **BILLING POLICY**

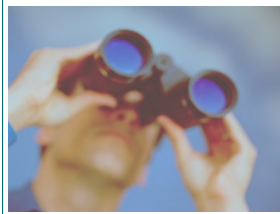
**Due date = 10th of the month.**

- ◆ **10% penalty** if payment is not received by the **25th day of the month** it is due.
- ◆ **\$32.00 Termination Notice Fee** if payment is not received 30 days after the due date.
- ◆ **\$95.00 Shutoff Fee** and the water meter is locked when payment is not received **within one week** of the date of the Termination Notice. Payment in full required to restore service.
- ◆ Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7am to 4pm.

### **PAYMENT OPTIONS**

- ◆ **Cash, check & money order** can be received in the office. No credit/debit transactions are available in the office.
- ◆ Payment drop box is accessible 24/7 at the District office.
- ◆ Debit/credit or E-check payments can be made at the District website or by phone at 1-877-651-3865.
- ◆ **Auto-Pay** (recurring withdrawals): use the Bank Draft Sign-up Form, available online.
- ◆ Private Bill Payer checks take 5-7 business days to arrive.

# WATER SYSTEM SECURITY: Your Watchful Eyes



Anyone operating a District fire hydrant, other than identifiable Water or Fire District personnel, is tampering with the water system and/or stealing water. The District does not allow water to be tapped, taken or purchased from hydrants in any of the water systems.

When someone opens a hydrant incorrectly, a sudden change in water pressure can cause sediment to be stirred up, which discolors the water and sends the dirty water throughout the system. Such an act can trigger costly damage to a water system, and potentially initiate emergency response where public health and crime are suspected. You are the best line of defense.



Your eyes are our best surveillance. If you spot someone tampering with a fire hydrant, pump station, well site or water storage facility, please call the District — day or night — with as much identifying information as you can obtain.



## WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

Do you know what legislators are discussing about your water or what legislative bills will affect your water rates? Go to the legislative website. Click on "Bill Information" on the left side of that page to begin a search by description, such as 'water'. Send your comments to your State Representative.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

*WINTER IS ON THE WAY... Protect pipes from freezing.*

- ◆ **Caulk around pipes where they enter the house.** Close foundation vents. Cut wood or Styrofoam blocks to fit vent openings and slide into the vents. Open the vents again in the spring to prevent dry rot.
- ◆ **Protect outside pipes and faucets.** In some homes, the outside faucet has a separate shut-off. If you have a separate valve for outside faucets, shut it off. Then turn on all the outdoor faucets to drain the lines. Leave the outside faucets on while you go back and check your outside shut-off valve for a small brass plug or cap on the valve. Turn this plug far enough that water drains from the valve. Then, tighten the plug back and turn off all the outside faucets.
- ◆ **Wrap outside faucets or hose bibs.** Do this if you don't have a separate valve to turn off outside faucets. Disconnect garden hoses. Use newspaper or rags covered with plastic, fiberglass or molded foam insulating covers to wrap the faucet.
- ◆ **Drain in-ground sprinkler systems.** Check manufacturer's instructions for the best way to do this.