

A Word from the Newest District Commissioner



Hello, my name is Robert Peterson, I am the newest Commissioner at Northshore Utility District. I was elected to office in November 2007. The other four Commissioners on the Board have been in office anywhere from 12 to 35 years. By comparison, I am a rookie and obviously have much to learn.

After a long public service career, spanning 33 years, four fire departments in two different states, I retired as Fire Chief from the Northshore Fire Department in September of 2006 at the age of 62. Too young to watch the world go by from my rocking chair, I felt energetic and had much to offer. Most of all, I missed the connection to my community. I had never run for a public office before, and this entry-level elected position allowed me to utilize my decades of management experience in the public service arena for the good of our community.

As the newest “insider,” I have been pleasantly surprised to find the utility extremely well-run. The District has an impressive collection of talented, well qualified, and dedicated employees, that are proactive in the

maintenance, construction, and management of the water distribution and sewage collection systems. The District is also financially sound, earning a “AAA” credit rating from Standard & Poor’s - the credit rating agency. All of these points make being a new member of the Board of Commissioners, who is ultimately responsible for managing the District, an easier job. Nevertheless, there is a leaning curve to overcome. This includes industry jargon, legal issues, rate-setting, construction work, and the relationships and dealings with the various cities and agencies.

The other Board members are: a public health professional, an attorney, a veteran of the finance industries, and a retired telephone technician. The group brings a variety of expertise to the table. With the diverse background of its members, this group works together with amazing rapport. The Board members divide up the tasks based on their respective areas of interest and expertise.

I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to serve my community. Your comments and input will help me do a better job as a utility district Commissioner. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me at rpeterson@nud.net. ♦

Street Lighting Reminder

As the season changes and daylight becomes scarce, proper street lighting is important for your convenience and safety. Please take time to notice and report burned-out or malfunctioning streetlights.

Into Light (a subsidiary of Puget Sound Energy) maintains most streetlights in the District. Each light standard has an identifying pole number at eye-level or slightly higher. To report a malfunctioning streetlight, please call 1-877- 229-1235. If you do not know the pole number, a street address will help. ♦



Planning for a Pandemic

In April of this year, a new H1N1 influenza virus, also known as the Swine flu, was identified and continues to spread around the world. Health experts are warning that the 2009 H1N1 flu will circulate along with regular influenza viruses this fall and our communities will see an increase in illness, hospitalizations, and deaths from this virus.

Northshore Utility District has been hard at work refining our Emergency Response Plan in preparation for this type of pandemic event. Maintaining uninterrupted service to our customers is the primary objective.

Most disasters, such as winter storms or earthquakes, strike at our infrastructure. These disasters can disrupt the power supply, break water and sewer lines, and cause damage to District facilities. A pandemic is a much different type of disaster. It strikes at our workforce,

reducing the number of employees we have available to carry out the day-to-day work of the District.

If health experts are correct, and the H1N1 influenza virus begins to spread rapidly in our area, it may become necessary to temporarily limit the face-to-face interaction

between District staff and our customers. These measures, known as “social distancing,” could include District employees wearing gloves and masks. It may even be necessary to close the District office to visitors. If these drastic steps were to be implemented, the District would still be able to assist our

customers through the District website, by email, by phone, and by standard mail. To learn more about preparation for a flu pandemic, please visit the District’s website at www.nud.net. ♦



Preparing for Fall



When those leaves begin to fall, don’t bag them up and haul them away. Leaves have a high mineral content and contain large amounts of fibrous organic matter. You can compost them or use them as a mulch to benefit your garden. This will reduce what you spend on fertilizers and water for irrigation.

When autumn comes and the leaves drop to the ground, they are worked on by bacteria and fungi to turn them into a rich dark mould, which feeds the trees and other plants in years to come. Leaf mould is made up of leaves which have decomposed to the point where the leaves are no longer distinguishable, and just the skeletal system of the leaf is left. We can learn a valuable lesson from this natural recycling and put it to good use in our own backyards. By themselves, leaves will decompose very slowly. To speed things up, you can either add a nitrogen supplement such as manure, or you can shred the leaves to reduce their volume as well.

For more information on yard care you can go to: www.kingcounty.gov/environment/stewardship/nw-yard-and-garden.aspx or www.gardenhotline.org or call the Garden Hotline at 206-633-0224. ♦



Northshore
Utility District
Board of
Commissioners:

Margaret Wiggins
President

Bruce Gardiner
Board Secretary

Don Ellis
Commissioner

Robert Peterson
Commissioner

Trudy Rolla
Commissioner

Board of
Commissioner
Meetings
are held at the
District Office the
first and third
Monday of each
month at 5:30 p.m.



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