

## Road Construction and Emergency Repairs

by Commissioner Trudy Rolla

Remember when the road construction season was from April to October and was guaranteed to delay your summer road trip? Well, those days seem long gone. Our service area has had many road construction projects, both big and small, going on continually this last year. Sewer and water pipes are usually installed under and along roadways and since NUD does not own this property, we have franchise agreements with the cities that allow us to install and maintain these facilities. Whenever the cities, county or State want to widen or realign roads, NUD must move pipes or otherwise accommodate the construction. In addition, NUD usually has to pay for these projects and we try to do this in the most economical manner. We also look to the future, and have been able to upgrade older pipes at the same time. You probably have seen the I-405 project and the SR 522 project; both have major impacts to our service lines.



Swamp Creek at 80<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, which is being replaced as part of this project. We will have more details on this project in the Consumer Confidence Report later this spring.

Sometimes we need to repair or replace pipes without the benefit of planning ahead. For example, we are currently working on the Holmes Point Drive section that washed out due to the heavy rains we

experienced this winter. This is an emergency repair project and is a joint effort between NUD and King County. This project will replace approximately 300 feet of roadway that was undermined/washed out and the approximately 460 feet of water main affected by the County's road repair project. We will be replacing 25-year old PVC water pipe with new ductile iron pipe that should last for more than 50 years. This project is expected to cost \$95,000, including paving.

NUD is an ever-expanding district, in that each year more water and sewer lines are installed for new development. This alone could keep us busy, but we also need to accommodate road construction projects. We coordinate as much as possible with King County and the surrounding cities so that our part of the construction goes smoothly and inconveniences you as little as possible. We have had a good track record, here are some comments from people that live in the District.

*"Wednesday I came home to discover the water main under the concrete driveway on our parking lot was leaking. A team from the District came out right away. I was so impressed with the smooth and efficient way they handled the situation. You have an amazing team working for you."*

*"Truck 59, a sewer cleaning crew, was out in my area working. There were three men that were polite, professional and very nice. They took the time to show my grandson what they were doing and explained about the manhole. I was very impressed with your crew."*

*"Your on-call duty person came to my house in the evening to turn back on my water. He was very polite, prompt and sympathetic to my situation. Please thank him for behaving in a very professional manner."*

- ◆ For the I-405 Sound Transit Project, a new freeway exit and overpass at NE 128<sup>th</sup> St. in Kirkland is currently in the final stages of construction. This project had a direct impact on the District's facilities due to the approximately 7' of fill needed to raise NE 128<sup>th</sup> St. 116<sup>th</sup> Ave NE and Totem Lake Blvd. to match the required elevation of the new overpass. This fill would have meant that our existing water main would be buried approximately 11' deep, which is too deep for proper maintenance and operation. Therefore, approximately 2,000 feet of water mains affected by this project were replaced. This was a very expensive project, costing approximately \$500,000. However, we were able to negotiate a lower amount with the City of Kirkland and Sound Transit, based on the language of the franchise agreement with the City of Kirkland. In the end, the District paid approximately \$200,000 for the water main replacement work, with the rest funded by Sound Transit.
- ◆ The SR 522 project is headed by the City of Kenmore and is expected to continue through November of 2008. This project will require the replacement of more than 4,400 feet of the District's water main, including the water main supported by the bridge over

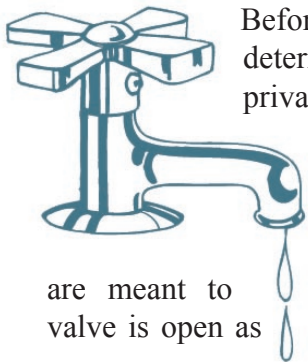
# Utility Easements

The District has guidelines governing what can be placed within a water or sewer utility easement. There have been instances of prohibited structures built within these easements and they had to be removed in order to avoid or repair damages to the utility lines.

Generally, no fences, walls, rockeries, structures or deep-rooted plants may be placed in an easement. Such structures and obstructions can damage, prevent or delay access to the District's utility lines, jeopardizing public health and safety. Please make sure to check with the District before building near an easement. ♦



## Your Water Pressure



are meant to  
valve is open as

Before you make that call, there are a few simple checks that you can do to determine if the low pressure or low flow is due to problems within your private plumbing system. If the low pressure is in the house, check to see if the pressure or flow is better at an outside hose bib close to the pipe that brings the water in from the meter. If the outside pressure and flow are good, you may want to check the shut-off valve, which is usually, located right where the water enters your home. The shut-off valves are meant to be either fully opened or completely closed. Make sure your shut-off valve is open as far as it will go without forcing it.

If the shut-off valve is fully open and you still have low pressure or low flow problems, it might mean that your plumbing is old and corrosion is starting to block the flow of water or your pressure reducing valve (PRV) could be failing. This is especially likely if you have been experiencing a gradual decline in pressure or flow. It might be a good idea to see if your neighbors are also experiencing similar problems. If they are not having any problems, it might be time to call a plumber.

Please remember, that at anytime you are unsure or concerned about any aspect of your water service, NUD will be glad to respond to your questions or concerns. ♦

## 2008 Spring Garden Fair

Mark your Calendars for the Spring Garden Fair and get your spring planting off to a great start!

**Saturday, April 26, 2008**  
**9:00 - 3:30**

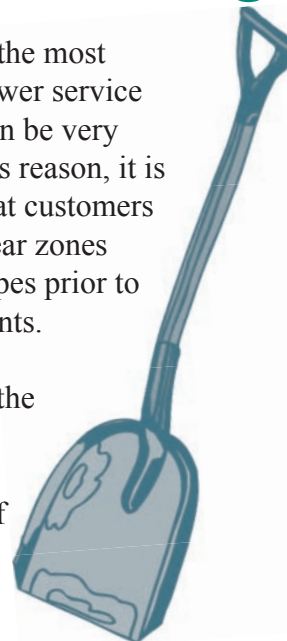
**at the Redmond  
City Hall Campus  
15670 NE 85<sup>th</sup> St., Redmond**

**Admission is Free**

For more information on the schedule and activities, visit [www.springgardenfair.com](http://www.springgardenfair.com). ♦

## Call Before You Dig

Tree roots are one of the most common causes of sewer service piping failures and can be very costly to you. For this reason, it is highly encouraged that customers maintain adequate clear zones around their sewer pipes prior to planting trees and plants. Before planting, call 800.424.5555 or call the District's Operations Department to get a copy of the as-built of your sewer system at 425.398.4403. Plant Smart! ♦



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Bruce Gardiner  
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Board of  
Commissioner  
Meetings  
are held at the  
District Office the  
first and third  
Monday of each  
month at 6 p.m.

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