

the Flow

A Publication of Northshore Utility District

2005 Issue No. 4

State Representatives Staying in Touch



L-R: Commissioner Kinnon Williams, Representative Toby Nixon, Representative Maralyn Chase, Representative Larry Springer, Commissioner Trudy Rolla, Commissioner Bruce Gardiner, Commissioner Margaret Wiggins and Commissioner Don Ellis.

Three State Representatives for ratepayers of Northshore Utility District visited the District on August 14, 2005. Representatives Toby Nixon (legislative district 45), Maralyn Chase (legislative district 32) and Larry Springer (legislative district 45) met with the Commissioners and staff to discuss issues that are important to our operations.

The Board of Commissioners thanks them for their time and their interest in the District. ■

NUD Customers Receive Over \$30,000 In Rebates!

In 2004, 414 of you took advantage of the various incentive programs and received \$30,900 in rebates, 62 commercial customers received

81 low-flow commercial pre-rinse spray heads for free. In addition, many also took advantage of the free low-flow showerhead exchange available at our office.



These rebates and water saving devices are offered to our customers through the "Regional 1% Water Conservation Program." The District takes part in the program as a wholesale customer of Seattle Public Utilities. These rebates and free water saving devices are provided by Seattle Public Utilities. The District pays for them as part of the wholesale cost of water.



There are a total of four programs for which our customers are eligible:

- ◆ *Wash Wise High Efficiency Clothes Washer Program* – Depending on the washer you purchase, rebates can range from \$25 to \$100.

- ◆ *Singlefamily and Multifamily Toilet Replacement Program* – This \$40 rebate is for replacing an older toilet with a new water-efficient toilet. New toilets use 1.6 gallons per flush (GPF) and older toilets use between 3.5 and 7 GPF.

- ◆ *Water Efficient Irrigation Improvement Program (residential and commercial)* – There are rebates for upgrades made to existing systems (\$100-\$450), new systems (\$50) and commercial rebates for both new and old systems with an assessment.

- ◆ *Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Efficiency Program (Water Smart Technology and Commercial Pre-Rinse Spray Heads)* – These rebates have many categories, from toilets to medical equipment, ranging from \$80 to a maximum of 50% of the project cost.

We hope these programs will encourage all of our customers to take advantage of the great water saving products that are available to help conserve our water and cut down on their water bills. For a complete listing of all rebates available, go to: <http://www.savingwater.org/rebates.htm>. ■

News You Can Use!

Putting It All In Perspective

As required by Federal laws, we recently sent you the Annual Water Quality Report. It contains information about the overall condition of your drinking water supply.

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires water purveyors to comply with water quality standards. But most of these standards are measured in trace or infinitesimally small amounts in terms of parts per million or parts per billion. It is hard for most people to relate to such minute quantities. The following will help put things in perspective.



Parts Per Million (ppm): A unit of concentration often used when measuring levels of pollutants in air, water, body fluids, etc. One ppm is 1 part in 1,000,000. The common unit mg/liter is equal to ppm. Four drops of ink in a 55-gallon barrel of water

would produce an “ink concentration” of 1 ppm.

Parts Per Billion (ppb): One part per billion is 1 part in 1,000,000,000. One drop of ink in one of the largest tanker trucks used to haul gasoline would represent 1 ppb.

The following comparisons may also help. Think of ...

One Part Per Million as:

1 inch in 16 miles,
1 minute in 2 years,
1 cent in \$10,000 ... or
1 ounce of salt in 31 tons of potato chips

One Part Per Billion as:

1 inch in 16,000 miles,
1 second in 32 years,
1 cent in \$10 million ... or
1 lob in 1,200,000 tennis matches

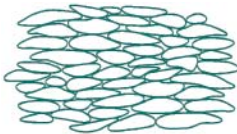
We hope this gives you a better perspective when you read the Annual Water Quality Report, which is sent out each June. ■

From Lumpy to Loamy in Three Steps!

The soil in your yard might be costing you money. How is that possible? The quality of your lawn and garden soil directly effects how often and for how long you need to water.



If your soil is too sandy, water drains away quickly and you need to water much more frequently. If your soil contains too much sticky clay, it takes a long time for the water to soak in and reach the roots of your plants.



clay particles are small, flattened and packed tightly together

The perfect soils are a mix of sand and clay known as Loamy soil. Loamy soils are a balance of air, water, organic material, sand and clay. There are three steps you can follow for healthy soil in your yard:

- ◆ Amend the soil in the entire planting area with good compost before your next fall planting.
- ◆ Mulch existing plantings with compost, leaves or other organic materials.
- ◆ Feed plants with a natural organic slow release fertilizer.



sand particles are larger and rounder

The end result will be healthier soil that requires less water, saving you both time and money. For more information you can contact the Lawn & Garden Hotline (206) 633-0224 or by email at lawn&gardenhotline@seattletilth.org. ■

Northshore
Utility District
Board of
Commissioners

Trudy Rolla
President

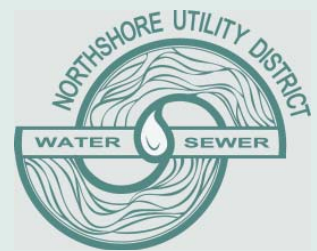
Bruce Gardiner
Secretary

Don Ellis
Commissioner

Margaret Wiggins
Commissioner

Kinnon Williams
Commissioner

Board of
Commissioner
Meetings
are held
first and third
Mondays
6 p.m.
at the
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