

# the Flow

A Publication of Northshore Utility District

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## Legislators Visited The District

By Commissioner Bruce Gardiner



The legislative session has concluded, but your representatives are still hard at work. Not in Olympia, but here at home. The Board of Commissioners of Northshore Utility District invited the State Representatives representing the residents of the District for a visit and a tour of our facilities. State

Representatives Maralyn Chase, Toby Nixon and Al O'Brien visited us on June 8, 2004. Representative Ruth Kagi, who could not make the meeting, sent her Legislative Assistant, Ms. Sonja Jacobson, in her stead.

Representatives Chase, Nixon, O'Brien and Ms. Jacobson reported on the recent legislative actions that may affect the District, to the Board of Commissioners.

They also discussed a variety of issues related to water and sewer utility services. The meeting concluded with a PowerPoint presentation by District staff about the various aspects of the District's operations.



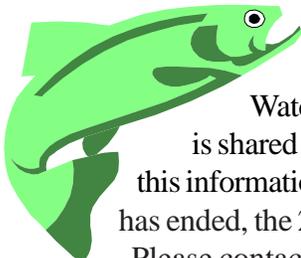
Also visiting the District were Staff and City Council members for the cities of Kenmore and Lake Forest Park, and in August, the City of Bothell. The District is currently working with the City of Kirkland to fit a visit and tour into their busy schedule in the near future.



L-R: Representative Toby Nixon; Commissioner Trudy Rolla; Representative Maralyn Chase; Commissioner Margaret Wiggins; Representative Al O'Brien and Commissioner Don Ellis.

The District thanks Representatives Chase, Nixon, O'Brien and Kagi; Kenmore Staff and Councilmembers Crawford, Hendrickson, Rogers, Baker, Schwendiman and Hensel; Lake Forest Park Staff and Councilmembers Hutchinson, Thompson, Kiest, Armanini, Herzog, Goss and Olstad, for their interest in the District's operations and for taking time from their busy schedules to visit the District.

The District has these gatherings in order to foster cooperation with the municipalities and legislators that also represent our customers. ■



**Salmon Watch!** The King County, Natural Resources and Parks division Salmon Watch program trains volunteers to help record which streams salmon are using for migration and spawning. Salmon Watchers monitor a stream twice a week from October through December. The information they collect is shared with other agencies and used to remove fish blockages and improve fish habitat. You can also use this information to experience the salmon migration from your home or nearest stream. Although the 2003 season has ended, the 2004 Salmon Watch season starts in September!

Please contact **Katie Sauter Messick** at 206-263-5086 for details. ■

# Irrigation makes sense!



Did you ever think that you could be saving water by using an irrigation system? Probably not, but if your irrigation system is correctly designed, installed and maintained, it will help minimize

the amount of water you use

and still keep your lawn and landscape looking healthy. An irrigation system may be as simple as a sprinkler connected to a water hose, or it may be a complicated system of underground pipelines with multiple circuits and automatic controls. Take note of these water saving tips from Rain Bird, a leading company in the irrigation industry.

- ◆ The greatest waste of water comes from applying too much, too often - much of the water is never absorbed. Instead of watering for one long session, water a few times for shorter periods and take 15-minute breaks in between each session. This will allow water to soak in, while minimizing runoff.
- ◆ Water between 5 a.m. and 10 a.m. - when the sun is low, winds are calm and temperatures are cool. Mid-day watering tends to be less efficient because of water loss due to evaporation and windy conditions during the day. Watering in the evening isn't a good idea either because leaves can remain wet overnight - an open invitation

for fungus to grow. By watering in the morning, leaves have a chance to dry out during the day.

- ◆ Different plants need different amounts of water. Divide your yard and landscape areas into separate irrigation zones so that grass can be watered separately and more frequently than groundcovers, shrubs and trees. Both sprinkler and drip irrigation can be incorporated to achieve more efficient use of water.
- ◆ If you have an underground sprinkler system, make sure the sprinkler heads are adjusted properly to avoid watering sidewalks and driveways. A properly adjusted sprinkler head should spray large droplets of water instead of a fine mist to minimize evaporation and wind drift
- ◆ When it comes to watering individual trees, flowerbeds, potted containers, or other non-grassy areas, consider applying water directly to the roots using low volume drip irrigation. This will reduce water waste through evaporation or runoff, and will prevent unwanted weeds from growing.
- ◆ Since lawns and gardens should be watered in the early morning hours, a problem may not be discovered until it is too late. Periodically check your sprinklers to make sure everything is working properly. A clogged head or a torn line can wreak havoc on your landscape and water bill.

If you are thinking of installing an irrigation system, be sure to select a contractor that is a Certified Irrigation Contractor (CIC). ■

## Have A Wet, But Safe Summer

According to a report from the Environmental Protection Agency, as many as 40% of U.S. beaches, rivers, estuaries and lakes may be polluted with microbial or chemical contaminants. Exposure to contaminated water has resulted in recreational water outbreaks arising from exposure to waterborne contaminants in such venues as swimming and wading pools, lakes and ponds, rivers and canals, decorative fountains, hot tubs and springs. During 1997-1998, a total of 32 waterborne outbreaks were associated with exposure to recreational waters resulting in an estimated 2,128 illnesses and four deaths. Recreational water exposure to infectious pathogens such as E. coli 0157:H7, Cryptosporidium parvum and Naegleria fowleri have the potential to cause serious health problems particularly in susceptible populations such as children.



So, while you are out there camping, boating and having fun this summer, take precautions; shower after swimming, bring plenty of potable water while hiking, and always obey health warnings posted at beaches and pools. ■



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*Commissioner*

Margaret Wiggins  
*Commissioner*

Kinnon Williams  
*Commissioner*

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