

the Flow

A Publication of Northshore Utility District

2004 Issue No. 5

CSI - NUD

By Commissioner Kinnon Williams



In late November 2004, at approximately 11:00 p.m., you're driving northbound on Juanita Dr. As you approach the turn near Big Finn Hill Park, a car speeds by in an attempt to pass you on the turn. The driver, failing to take proper distance into account, makes an evasive maneuver while the cars heading northbound, slam on their brakes to avoid a head-on collision.

The car that passed you loses control and begins to fishtail throughout the road, eventually having its side go over the curb and slam into a fire hydrant. Not wanting to be caught, the driver of the passing vehicle puts the car into gear and speeds on before the police arrive. Shaken by the event, and not knowing what to do, you regain your composure and then head home. What is on your mind right now is just getting safely home. Before you go, you remember you have a job to do – CSI.

While many of us like to watch the crime drama, Crime Scene Investigators, in its various venues from Las Vegas to New York and see how science can solve almost any crime, the fact

is that most crimes are solved by eyewitness accounts. In this case, it could have been you.

Over the past year, the Northshore Utility District has seen a large increase in the number of fire hydrants damaged or destroyed by vehicle accidents. They are presently running at a rate of approximately 3 fire hydrants per month, that need to be repaired or replaced due to vehicle damage. This places an additional cost on the ratepayers. So far it has cost the District this year, just under \$35,000.00. The cost to you as a ratepayer is \$0.15 per month.

While many people might not consider this a significant cost, as costs continue to escalate, these will be reflected in your water bill. This cost can also be avoided with your help. So if you are out and you witness an incident like this, remember to take down as much information as you can regarding the incident and the vehicle that ran into one of your local utilities, whether it be telephone poles, fire hydrants, or utility boxes, report that information to the police as well as to your local utility. Don't assume that somebody else will do it.

You are our citizens; you are our eyes in the field. We appreciate your help and wish you the best during the Holiday Season. ■



Getting In The Spirit

This is the fourteenth year for the District's "Adopt-A-Family" program. This holiday season, the Commissioners, employees and consultants of Northshore Utility District will be sponsoring a needy family in our area through the Salvation Army.

Working from brief descriptions and wish lists of this family, we collect lots of wonderful gifts and then wrap and deliver them before Christmas. We view this as an opportunity to put something back into our community. ■



Water Supply Outlook

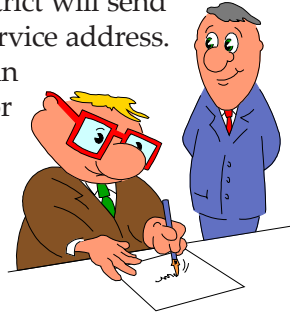
The Seattle Public Utilities reports that our water supply situation is very good. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is at 1,748.8 feet, having risen about 0.8 feet over the week ending October 17. Water consumption for the 7-day period ending October 17 averaged 119 million gallons per day (mgd). That average is less than the 121 mgd consumed during the same period last year, and also less than the average of 136 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000. Kudos on your conservation efforts and keep up the good work! ■



Rental Property Bills - Attention Owners!



All service accounts at Northshore Utility District are kept in the name of the property owners. Since properties can be liened and/or foreclosed upon for the collection of unpaid service charges, this policy is necessary for the protection of owners of rental properties. Owners of rental properties should make arrangements with their tenants (if the tenant is responsible for the payment of utility bills) to avoid unpleasant surprises. For your convenience, the District will send a duplicate bill, addressed to "Resident" or the tenant, at the service address. The property owner or his/her agent must request this service in writing. There is an additional charge of 50 cents per month for this service. For forms and additional information, please contact the billing department at 425/398-4400 or download the Duplicate Bill Request form from our website: www.nud.net and click on Departments, Finance, Downloadable Forms. ■



Northshore Utility District Board of Commissioners

Don Ellis
President

Trudy Rolla
Secretary

Bruce Gardiner
Commissioner

Margaret Wiggins
Commissioner

Kinnon Williams
Commissioner

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



District Office
P.O. Box 82489
6830 NE 185th St.
Kenmore, WA 98028

425-398-4400
425-398-4430 fax

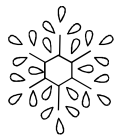
www.nud.net

Be Prepared For Winter!



Don't let winter weather catch you unprepared. Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen pipes by taking a few simple steps now.

◆ Insulate Exposed Pipes and Faucets. Outdoor faucets and pipes, and pipes in unheated garages and crawl spaces are the most vulnerable in freezing weather. To prevent these pipes from freezing, wrap them with newspaper, rags, or other insulating material. Cover them with plastic to keep the material dry and secure with string or wire.



◆ Locate Your Main Shut-Off Valve. Don't wait for an emergency. Find your main shut-off valve now and test it! If a pipe breaks, you can stop excessive water loss and flooding by turning off your main shut-off valve. It is commonly located in the basement, the garage, or outdoors by the foundation, often near the front faucet. Test the valve by turning the handle to be sure it's working properly and identify it with a tag. If a main shut-off valve does not exist, you might want to consider having one installed by a plumber.

◆ Never leave a garden hose attached to the faucet in freezing weather. Not only could you end up with a damaged hose, but the water could also have



been left on at the faucet and freeze. When the water thaws, you could end up with a very large bill due to leakage from the broken hose!

◆ If you have a vacant house or vacation home - be sure and winterize it. If you leave your house for several days, be sure to turn off the main shut-off valve and contact your gas or electric utilities to see if you should turn off the electricity or gas to the water heater. If the house is going to be vacant for an extended length of time, the water heater should also be drained. Also drain indoor and outdoor faucets and flush toilets to drain the tank (but not the bowl), after shutting off the water. Lastly, leave your heat on at a minimum temperature setting to help keep pipes from freezing in interior walls (and to prevent mildew).



◆ Protect your Pipes Prone to Freezing. Pipes that have frozen in the past, despite precautionary measures, can be wrapped with electric heat tape. Or if you don't mind the additional cost on your utility bills, you can let one



indoor faucet slowly drip warm water overnight during spells of below freezing temperatures. Do not, however, leave water running in a house that will be vacant for an extended period of time. ■