

WET GAZETTE

2015 FALL EDITION

Valley Water District
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Puyallup WA 98372

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OPEN PUBLIC MEETINGS

Board of Commissioner meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, at the District Office. Dates are subject to change from the regular pattern. Please confirm by calling the office or checking the website for change announcements. Ratepayers are encouraged to attend open and public board meetings.

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Welcome Sierra Water System Users

On July 1, 2015 the Sierra Homeowners Association transferred all the Sierra Water System assets to the Valley Water District, a public utility that is a local government. You have probably already seen the Valley Water District trucks out in your area and would have received your first billing on September 1, 2015. A welcome packet was sent out to all of the new customers with information about the District, rates and billing procedures.

The District is currently assessing the maintenance and capital improvements needed as required by the Washington State Department of Health. The District has just finished the first project of changing out about 20 of the older gallon meters to new radio reads. With the first billings the District has started to build reserves for your systems improvements.

Again, the staff and commissioners of Valley Water District welcome you. You can reach the office at (253) 841-9698

Betty Vance
District Manager


Valley Water District Commissioners

Robert Fulton
Christine Johnson
Ted Hardiman

Valley Water District - a local government that works without taxes!

We are online at:

VALLEYWATERDISTRICT.COM



Call Before You Dig— It's the Law!
As a homeowner, business owner, farmer, or excavator, you are required by law to make contact with underground facility owners through a one-number locator service, before you excavate. Just dial 8-1-1 to reach the regional One Call Center. The District does not locate your private water lines beyond the meter.

Meet Bill Knight-

Field Technician 2- VWD Safety Officer

This October marks the 9th year Field Technician, Bill Knight has been on staff at Valley Water District. Bill has served as the VWD Safety Officer for 6 years. Bill has 17 years experience as a field technician in the industry. Prior to coming to our water district, Bill worked for a water district in Lake Tahoe, CA.

The Department of Health certifies all water district field employees in the state of Washington. Bill currently holds a Water District Level 3 Certification, is a Certified Water Treatment Plant Operator 1, and a Certified Cross Connection Specialist.

When not working, Bill and his family enjoy participating in BMX racing. He currently holds the title of Washington State BMX State Champion in the 46 and over intermediate level racers. He travels all over the state competing year round at the various eleven BMX race track sites in the state. Bill enjoys being able to work outside instead of having a inside desk job. One of his favorite places to visit in Washington state is Whidbey Island.



IN MEMORY



THEODORE MILLER ,88 Former VWD Commissioner

Ted Miller, age 88, died on Thursday August 20, 2015 at the spring of Life Adult Family Home in Kent, WA where he enjoyed the simple and close environment with his caregivers who truly adored him. He was born in Richmond, IN and moved with his family to Yelm, WA in 1942. Ted enlisted in US Navy in 1945, serving 18 months in the Pacific. He worked in the logging industry for 10 years and 30 years in the construction industry, retiring from the Operating Engineers in 1987.

During retirement Ted served as Valley Water District Commissioner from 1998 until he resigned in 2014 due to illness. Ted was one of the main representatives of VWD to the legislature to lobby for an exemption from B&O taxes during the early years of the District. Ted was a very big part of VWD and will be missed by co-commissioners and staff.

Water System Updates

The District is out and about performing preventative and as-needed maintenance every day. This section is for sharing project updates and maintenance highlights with you, the ratepayer.

The District appreciates your cooperation with conservation and use of the summer outdoor watering conservation calendar, which has a great effect on well performance and water system reliability.

As a whole the District continues to grow. We have recently put together a photo book and printed posters showing the improvements and maintenance over the last twenty years. We welcome you to come by the office to view these items.

ALDERWOOD

The Alderwood system has been operating trouble free since the improvements were made to the well source. The District is currently in the process of implementing a service line replacement program which will begin this fall. The program will focus on replacing old and leaking galvanized service lines throughout the system over a 3-4 year period

BUTTES

District personnel took advantage of the warm weather this summer to make some improvements to the Buttes Booster Pump Station and well. Some of the projects that were undertaken this summer included: repair and paint to building siding where necessary. A protective wall surrounding was built for generator and a new pad was poured for propane tank. A safety railing was built for the bio swale. In the chemical room many safety improvements were made including retrofitting's, proper sealing of room and preventative draining measures. Security doors and locks were installed. A roof was replaced on well pump. Site fencing is currently being completed.

CHINOOK

The Chinook System treatment facility has been operating to design standards since the beginning of this year. After considerable delay and design troubleshooting, the District and its contractors were able to make necessary corrections and adjustments to the new filtration system which has resulted in complete compliance with Federal and State drinking water standards.

COUNTRY/ELDORADO

The Country/Eldorado system continues to operate relatively trouble free. District personnel are in the process of replacing the Well #4 source meter and rebuilding the discharge piping from that well.

HIGHLANDS

District personnel took advantage of the long summer to paint all the fire hydrants within the Puyallup Highlands development.

SIERRA

The District took over the Sierra System in July of this year. While the system has numerous necessary improvements to undertake, District personnel are uniquely suited to the task. As part of the District's summer maintenance program all of the fire hydrants in the system were given a new coat of paint. There will be much more improvements to come as various issues are addressed throughout the water system.

WINCHESTER

The Winchester System has been operating relatively trouble free. The District had the failing roof of the booster pump station replaced this past summer.

VALLEY

The Valley System is in the process of extensive improvements. This year the District initiated the design of a new water storage tank facility and a complete replacement of the existing well pump facility. The long warm summer allowed District personnel to paint the entire north half of the systems fire hydrants and the south half is currently underway.

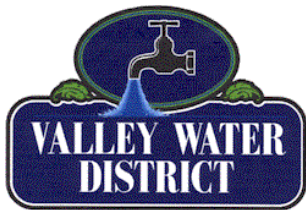
VIEW ROYAL

The View Royal System has been operating relatively trouble free. District personnel are in the process of cleaning the exterior of the water storage tank.

WET GAZETTE

IF YOUR WATER SERVICE LINE WAS INSTALLED BY A PRIVATE PARTY- WE HAVE NO RECORDS SHOWING THE LOCATION OF YOUR LINE AND CANNOT REPAIR LINES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY. WE DO NOT HAVE EQUIPMENT THAT LOCATES UNDERGROUND WATER LEAKS. THE PRIVATE LINE IS NOT REGULATED OR INSPECTED BY VALLEY WATER DISTRICT.





Mission Statement

To provide safe and reliable water to all of the District's customers.

WE'RE ONLINE AT
VALLEYWATERDISTRICT.COM

BILLING POLICY

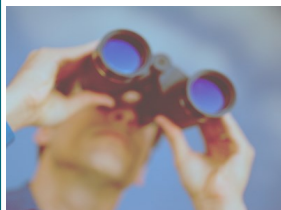
Due date = 10th of the month.

- ◆ **10% penalty** if payment is not received by the **25th day of the month** it is due.
- ◆ **\$30.00 Termination Notice Fee** if payment is not received 30 days after the due date.
- ◆ **\$90.00 Shutoff Fee** and the water meter is locked when payment is not received **within one week** of the date of the Termination Notice. Payment in full required to restore service.
- ◆ Office hours are Monday through Friday, 7am to 4pm.

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- ◆ **Cash, check & money order** can be received in the office. No credit/debit transactions are available in the office.
- ◆ Payment drop box is accessible 24/7 at the District office.
- ◆ Debit/credit or E-check payments can be made at the District website or by phone at 1-877-651-3865.
- ◆ **Auto-Pay** (recurring withdrawals): use the Bank Draft Sign-up Form, available online.
- ◆ **Doxo**: Free e-payments when you choose paperless billing. See the doxo link on the District homepage.
- ◆ Private Bill Payer checks take 5-7 business days to arrive.

WATER SYSTEM SECURITY: Your Watchful Eyes



Anyone operating a District fire hydrant, other than identifiable Water or Fire District personnel, is tampering with the water system and/or stealing water. The District does not allow water to be tapped, taken or purchased from hydrants in any of the water systems.

When someone opens a hydrant incorrectly, a sudden change in water pressure can cause sediment to be stirred up, which discolors the water and sends the dirty water throughout the system. Such an act can trigger costly damage to a water system, and potentially initiate emergency response where public health and crime are suspected. You are the best line of defense.



Your eyes are our best surveillance. If you spot someone tampering with a fire hydrant, pump station, well site or water storage facility, please call the District — day or night — with as much identifying information as you can obtain.



Do you know what legislators are discussing about your water or what legislative bills will affect your water rates? Go to the legislative website. Click on "Bill Information" on the left side of that page to begin a search by description, such as 'water'. Send your comments to your State Representative.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

WINTER IS ON THE WAY... Protect pipes from freezing.

- ◆ **Caulk around pipes where they enter the house.** Close foundation vents. Cut wood or Styrofoam blocks to fit vent openings and slide into the vents. Open the vents again in the spring to prevent dry rot.
- ◆ **Protect outside pipes and faucets.** In some homes, the outside faucet has a separate shut-off. If you have a separate valve for outside faucets, shut it off. Then turn on all the outdoor faucets to drain the lines. Leave the outside faucets on while you go back and check your outside shut-off valve for a small brass plug or cap on the valve. Turn this plug far enough that water drains from the valve. Then, tighten the plug back and turn off all the outside faucets.
- ◆ **Wrap outside faucets or hose bibs.** Do this if you don't have a separate valve to turn off outside faucets. Disconnect garden hoses. Use newspaper or rags covered with plastic, fiberglass or molded foam insulating covers to wrap the faucet.
- ◆ **Drain in-ground sprinkler systems.** Check manufacturer's instructions for the best way to do this.