



NEWS SPLASH

Water District No. 111

WINTER/SPRING 2010

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE STATE LEGISLATURE IS CONSIDERING IMPOSING A MINIMUM 6% UTILITY TAX ON YOUR WATER BILL. The **tax** from these bills will go to the cities you live in, not to your water district. This **TAX** will not be used to improve your water system or support the service for which the taxes are collected. Not a single dollar of this **tax** will be used to build, maintain or replace your water system. Current bills under consideration are House Bills 2749 and 3179.

YOUR ELECTED BOARD OPPOSES ANY TAX ON WATER UTILITIES.

Don Drummond, Water Plant Treatment Operator

Don can often be found in the District's lab, processing the never ending list of water testing and sampling needed to meet the District's standards and Department of Health requirements for public water systems. Whether working in the lab or out in the field you can always count on Don to get the work done.

Don was born in Eastern Shore, Virginia. He spent his early years between Eastern Shore and Norfolk. In 1960, he joined the United States Navy serving four years. After the military he was employed by Mills hospital supply, 7-11 stores, S.H. Kress & Company and W.T. Grant department stores. He went to work for ARCO and took an early retirement and returned to school at Bellingham Technical, after which he worked processing small claims, bankruptcy claims, garnishments, and bank repossessions.



When asked about how he started in the water business Don says "In March of 1988 I started my adventure in the water industry working

for Whatcom Water District #10 located in Bellingham. When I reflect back on my first day of work; I was handed a shovel to dig up an asbestos concrete main which had a crack in it."

Since that time Don has taken advantage of educational opportunities and now holds Washington State certification as a Water Distribution Manager 4, Water Treatment Plant Operator 3, Cross Control Specialist, and a Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator. Don has held many positions throughout his career, from his start digging ditches he has been a supervisor, superintendent and district manager.

Don has worked for Water District No. 111 for the last five years as a Water Treatment Plant Operator. On May 31st he will retire and return to his home in Bellingham to en-

joy his "golden years" with his wonderful wife Josie. Don and Josie plan on traveling Route 66 from Chicago to San Diego next year. Don is in the process of restoring a 1977 MGB and a 1968 Ford F 250 using parts off a 1970 F-250.

The staff of WD111 have offered the following comments on Don's retirement:

"Don I will miss you and your wisdom, there are not enough people in the world like you." Chris Wilson.

"Don it has been a honor and pleasure working with you, you have always given 110 percent for your fellow employees and customers of WD111, enjoy your much deserved retirement." Vern Allemand.

"Don is very dedicated to his job, family, and friends. He is kind hearted; and often looks for ways to make others laugh and smile. It will be difficult parting with someone we feel is like family." Natalie Vance

"Don is one of the sweetest men I know. He is always there with a smile and helping hand. His jokes bring a smile to everyone and we can count on him to always be there. We will miss him a lot." Joan Olsen

The District has benefitted from Don's multi-faceted work experience and although we will miss him we all wish him the best.



Spring Cleaning

As we start seeing signs that spring is on its way, and plants start to bud it is a good time to trim the area around your meter. It is important to keep this area around and above the meter box clear so that District personnel can locate your meter quickly in an emergency that requires your meter to be turned off and for regular maintenance.

The District recommends that you do your own trimming to insure that your plants and shrubs are trimmed properly and to your liking. When left to District personnel, trimming is accomplished quickly with thought to access and maintenance, not necessarily to appearance.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT THAT WORKS . . . without taxes.

1200 Reservoir Exterior Recoating

On January 28th 2010, Coatings Unlimited Inc, of Kent Washington was awarded the contract to recoat the exterior of the district's R1200 reservoir. The reservoir is located at approximately 127th and SE 253rd Court.

The R1200 reservoir was built in 1984 and was recoated in 1999. The old paint is failing and must be replaced to prevent structural damage to the tank. The entire exterior of the tank will be recoated and painted with a mural resembling the tree line of an evergreen forest.

In addition to the recoating, the contractor will add seismic upgrades to mitigate potential damage to the reservoir from earthquakes. The work will begin in early February 2010 and should be completed by the end of April 2010.

To prevent any damage to the environment and the surrounding neighbors the tank



will be surrounded with an impenetrable barrier while the existing coating is removed and the new coat is applied. There will be a truck on site that will capture and filter the air and debris before it leaves the barrier. All the debris which is captured will be deposited of appropriately.

Residents in the surrounding neighborhood may notice sandblasting, generator and filter system noise during the working

hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday. The noise level should be minimal, and all construction will occur on the District's property.

If you have any questions or concerns about this project please feel free to contact District Staff at (253) 631-3770.

PROTECTING THE WATER SUPPLY

Washington State drinking water regulations, WAC 246-290-490, require public water systems to develop and implement cross-connection control programs to protect the drinking water supply from contamination. As part of our efforts to comply with the State regulation, you have or will soon receive a questionnaire regarding possible cross connection items in your home.

Irrigation systems are one of the connections that require the installation of a backflow prevention assembly to protect the water distribution system. The State requires that Backflow Prevention Assemblies be tested annually. If you have an irrigation system with a backflow device and you haven't been sending us a copy of your annual test results, please send us a copy.

When District personnel become aware of the existence of an irrigation system not currently part of the District's backflow records they must request a copy of the most recent backflow test. If one does not exist you will be required to obtain one. A list of certified testers is available on the District website at www.wd111.com. Please contact our office if you have any questions.



Bond refinance savings

In January the District completed the refinancing of bonds it secured in 1997 which were for capital projects. We were able take advantage of existing market conditions (lower interest rates) and net over \$100,000 in savings over the life of the bonds. This was able to be accomplished without having to extend the 2017 maturity (payoff) date. Additionally, we were able to secure \$1,200,000 in new low interest bond money for needed construction and maintenance improvements (projects) within our water system.

These new projects include removing and replacing the exterior paint on a two million gallon steel water reservoir and reinforcing the seismic straps to bring it up to code; installing a third water transfer pump at the 1300 Reservoir site to meet peak water use and fire demands within the water system; connecting to the City of Tacoma's water supply line and the construction of a pressure reducing station and a metering flow station, which will provide the District with an additional 1.2 million gallons per day of water supply.

During the process of the bond refinancing, Standard and Poor reevaluated and upgraded the District's credit rating from a very respectable A rating to an **A+ RATING** because of its existing and future financial stability.

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COMMISSIONERS
 Gary Cline
 Patrick Hanis
 Charles Wilson

GENERAL MANAGER
 Chris Hall

Meetings held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 9:00 a.m. at the District office.