



ROCKWOOD WATER LINES

THE ROCKWOOD WATER PEOPLE'S UTILITY DISTRICT 2021 **NEWSLETTER** ISSUE 1

General Election Results for Rockwood Water

Three members of the District's Board of Directors were re-elected to their positions on November 3, 2020.

Subdistrict #1: Tom Lewis

Subdistrict #3: Kathy Zimmerman

Subdistrict #4: Steve Okazaki

Board of Directors

31 YEARS PEOPLE'S
UTILITY DISTRICT

96 YEARS OF SERVICE

Their terms are January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2024. They join Colby Riley, Subdistrict #2 and Larry Dixon, Subdistrict #5. Information about all five Board members and a map of subdistricts can be found on our website at rwpud.org/board-of-directors.

Groundwater Development Update - Good News!

We are excited to announce the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has invited Rockwood Water and the City of Gresham to submit an application for credit assistance through its Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program for the Cascade Groundwater Development project. The invitation is the next step in the process to secure this important financing tool and was in response to the Letter of Interest filed jointly to the US EPA by Rockwood Water and the City of Gresham. Invitations to apply are limited through a highly competitive process and are viewed as a milestone event, which will result in closing a WIFIA loan with the US EPA. The WIFIA program accelerates investment in our nation's water infrastructure by providing long-term, low-cost supplemental loans for regionally and nationally significant projects. Customers will see the savings in the form of lower than anticipated rate increases because it allows us to finance 49% of the project at an extremely low interest rate and delay the start of loan repayment for up to 10 years. Together, Rockwood Water and the City of Gresham are capitalizing on our long-standing partnership to build an independent regional water supply system that will be resilient, more affordable and deliver consistent water quality to our customers.

Current Groundwater Development Projects

Cascade Well 7 - NE 202nd Avenue

Drilling is complete. The pump test determined we will get over 5 million gallons per day (MGD). This is a very productive well. The site is a staging grounds for the two remaining active drill sites, Cascade Well 8 and Cascade Well 9. When they are completed, the remaining equipment and materials will be removed. The site will be graded and seeded until the well house and site improvements are complete. These improvements are scheduled to begin this summer (2021).

Cascade Well 8 - NE 141st Avenue

Drilling is complete and the pump testing will be performed near the end of January. The construction equipment and materials will be removed near the end of February. The site will be graded, seeded and the fencing reinstalled. The design for the treatment building and onsite improvements will begin in 2022, with construction during the year 2023.

Cascade Well 9 - Kirk Park, NE 188th Avenue - City of Gresham Project

Drilling is complete and the pump testing will be performed near the end of January. The construction equipment and materials will be removed near the end of February. The park site will be restored, and a small utility enclosure will be installed until a well house is constructed. Designs will begin in 2024 and site improvements completed during 2025.

New General Manager



The District is happy to announce the employment of Kari Duncan as the District's new General Manager. Kari arrives to the District with a wealth of knowledge and experience from serving as the Water Supply and Treatment Manager at the City of Lake Oswego, and before that, the Eugene Water and Electric Board. At Lake Oswego, Kari managed the Lake Oswego Water Treatment Facility and served as one of the point persons in the development of the Lake Oswego Tigard Partnership Water Supply System. She brings years of experience working with elected officials, collective bargaining groups and serves on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Portland Water Bureau's Bull Run Water Filtration Plant Evaluation Team. In addition, she has served as a Director for the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and Past Chair of the Pacific Northwest Section (PNWS)/AWWA, among many other professional positions. She is a PNWS/AWWA George Warren Fuller Award winner; an award that recognizes distinguished service in the water supply field, diplomatic and constructive leadership, and creativity and innovation. She will be bringing a broad knowledge base to add to the great team here at Rockwood Water. Kari and her husband Ken recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary, and they have two rambunctious boys aged 9 and 12. Please join us in welcoming Kari to the District.

Water Main Flushing Program to Begin



The District's annual Water Main Flushing Program is scheduled to begin in mid-January and continue through April. The Program is part of the District's ongoing water quality and system maintenance work. This year, we will be flushing the east half of the District from 181st/182nd Avenues to our easternmost boundary and Sandy Boulevard to our southernmost boundary around 3rd Street in Gresham.

Crews will typically place flushing signs in the neighborhoods two to three days prior to flushing the area, and maps of the area(s) to be flushed will be posted on our website.

District Crews will perform the work from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Crews work at fire hydrants, in street intersections, and at the end of cul-de-sacs. Large volumes of water flow down the streets, while fire hydrants and the water pipes are scoured of built-up sediments and tested for faulty valves.

Residents will not be out of water during flushing; however, some residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience low pressure and temporary discoloration of their water. This does not pose a health risk; however, residents should check their water before washing any clothing.

If you notice our crews in your neighborhood, we recommend not turning on your water between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. unless it's necessary. This includes not running appliances using water, such as dishwashers and washing machines. If you have discolored water, turn on each cold water faucet and allow it to run until it's clear again and flush each toilet two times. Please call the District office at 503.665.4179 with questions.

Payment Assistance

Rockwood Water People's Utility District wants to ensure everyone has access to the water they need to stay healthy and take care of themselves and their families; however, it is important for customers to know they are still responsible for their water bills.

We understand our customers may be working through an affordability crisis during this time, so Rockwood Water is offering flexible payment arrangements and assistance to pay your water bill. Please be proactive! If you're facing a financial hardship during this time, please call us at 503.665.4179 or email us at customerservice@rwpud.org to work out a plan **BEFORE** your bill is due or late fees accrue.