

The Tap



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Camano Water Association

City of Fife

Firgrove Mutual Water Co.

Fox Island Mutual Water Association

Fruitland Mutual Water Co.

Graham Hill Mutual Water Co.

Lake Josephine Riviera

Lakewood Water District

City of Milton

Mt. View-Edgewood Water Co.

Parkland Light and Water

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Utilities*

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Rainier View Water Co.

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Summit Water & Supply Co.

City of Summer

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*Public Utility District No. 1
of Thurston County*

Valley Water District

Washington Water Service Co.

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President's Pipeline

I recently saw a cartoon (on bizarrocomics.com) that depicted a rather solemn occasion. The picture was of a funeral service, with the casket of the deceased in the front of the room in which the service was to be held. Other than the wife of the deceased, the room had many rows of empty chairs. At the back of the room, the daughter was whispering to the funeral director, "He had over 2,000 Facebook friends. I was expecting a bigger turnout."

Not too long ago, one measured their wealth not by the money they possessed, but by the friends they had made. A friend wasn't someone who was around just when times were good. There seems to be no shortage of "friends" when you have extra Seahawks tickets to share or money to spend to buy adult beverages at a social event.

A friend is really someone who is with you in your darkest hours, when times are tough, when you need a hand.

Despite how today's world of social media defines

"friends," your Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County embodies the more traditional definition. Many of us have developed strong friendships that will remain throughout life. Our relationships provide our collective strength, allowing each of us to achieve greater things than any of us could hope to accomplish alone.

Friendship is not as simple as sending a request and waiting for it to be "accepted." It starts with getting involved, reaching out beyond your normal comfort zone, and be willing to be part of a team or family that recognizes our public health mission and the awesome responsibility we have to the public.

As a member of the RWCCPC, you have made a great first step toward developing meaningful friendships. Your involvement in our committees, legislative matters, sharing of policies, equipment purchasing and services contracting, and even simply attending monthly meetings are important **opportunities in**

developing trusting relationships that develop lasting friendships.

Make no mistake, the work you do is important! The public relies upon your professionalism. Yet none of us are born with the professional skills or experience that allows us to make critical decisions necessary to protect public health. The friendships we develop in the RWCCPC lead to relationships built upon trust and respect. By working together, we accomplish so much more, and we develop professionalism the public deserves and needs.

Thank you for being a member of the Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County. Thank you for being a friend!

Marc Marcantonio

President



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Legislative Affairs

Three items will take priority as the new Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County prepares for an active 2015 legislative session. The legislative elections may change some faces in Olympia but, realistically, the issues remain the same. The Co-op will provide the lead for three issues in 2015, two of which nearly passed in 2014.

First, we will reintroduce the bill which would raise the dollar amount at which water districts must go out for public bid from \$20,000 to \$90,000. The current ceiling often is exceeded by relatively minor repairs. The 2014 bill passed House 81-16 and moved through the Senate but was not called for a final floor vote.

Our second bill will seek to insure public water systems will receive notice when local agencies begin the update or change process for Growth Management Plans or development regulations. In

2014, this bill passed the Senate 47/0 and moved through the House but was not called for a final floor vote.

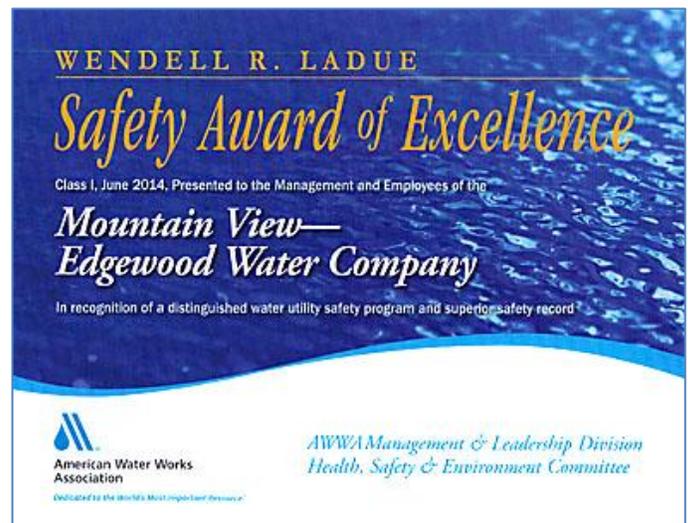
Finally, the Co-op will again seek funding certainty for the Departments of Health and Ecology by dedicating 10 percent of existing utility taxes collected by public water systems to each of those agencies. This issue continues to become more critical as the state addresses education funding.

Working with other utility stakeholders, the Co-op will seek to address metal theft issues, special purpose district assumption and warrant authority, and the Public Works Assistance Account. We will also monitor bills that may arise from the anticipated Supreme Court *Cornelius v. Dept. of Ecology* and WSU decision, addressing temporarily empty rental units, addressing permit exempt wells, and possible changes

in the Growth Management Act. We will also begin consideration of a non-governmental "Water Utility Development Fund," public versus private funding availability issues, and how to link water availability to growth management goals.

The Cooperative will once again hold candidates'

forums to discuss these issues in the early fall. As is normal in the water world, 2015 is looking to be a very active session; we need to work to educate our legislators on water issues and keep our eyes and ears alert for whatever else may also appear in this long session of the legislature.



Congratulations to Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company on AWWA Safety Award!

On June 10, 2014, the American Water Works Association awarded Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company with the prestigious Wendell R. LaDue Utility Safety Award, Class 1. The award ceremony took place in Boston during the Annual AWWA Conference.

The award was presented to the management and staff of Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company in recognition as having the best safety program in the nation as judged by their safety record,

management policies, training practices, and extraordinary measures taken to promote and operate in a safe manner.

Well done, Marc and crew!

Mt. View-Edgewood Water Company
 11610 32nd Street East
 Edgewood, WA 98372
<http://mtvewater.com>
 General Manager: Marc Marcantonio

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Lakewood Water District Introduces Automated Meter Infrastructure

Automated Meter Infrastructure (AMI) is Coming To Town...and Everyone's Getting a New Meter!

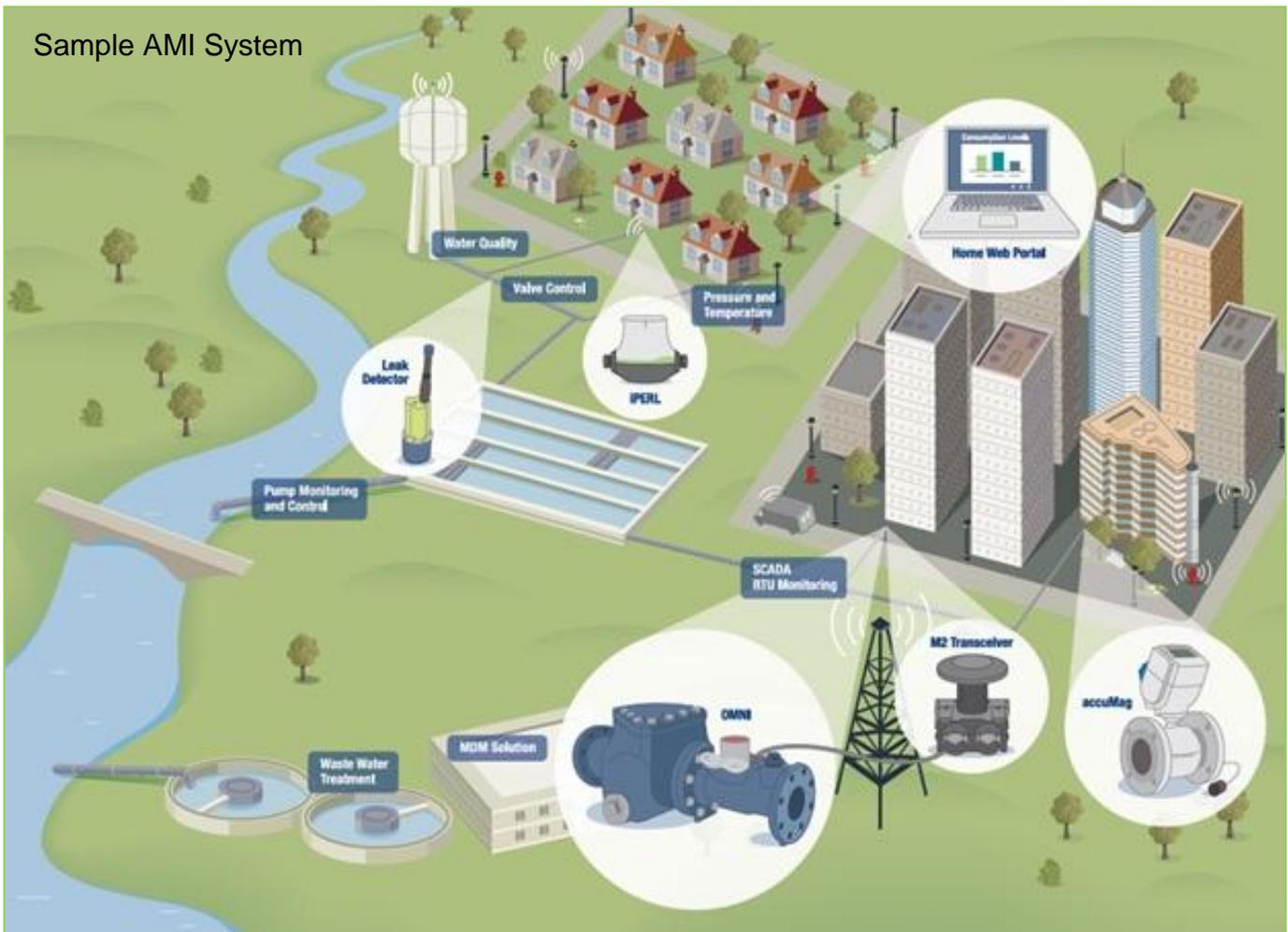
To help serve its customers and community better, Lakewood Water District will be installing an AMI system throughout its Water District this summer. This project will include enhancing nearly every residential and commercial water meter in Lakewood Water District with new, state-of-the-art technology that can wirelessly communicate meter reads and water usage information to the District daily. This will provide better leak detection, improved

customer service, cost savings, and many other efficiencies to the District and, therefore, its customers.

In addition, the District will be replacing all—as in every one—of its meters, so every Lakewood Water District customer, both residential and commercial, will be receiving a shiny, new meter in the weeks and months ahead!

The project will begin in July and take about 4 to 5 months

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Lakewood Water District Introduces Automated Meter Infrastructure

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to complete. Postcards will be sent to customers 15 to 30 business days prior to installation, and before leaving the site, door hangers will be left at the main entrance to the property informing the residents of the status of the visit.

The community's drinking water will remain safe throughout the project with limited interruptions, as water

will need to be turned off at each residence to install new meters.

For more information on this program, please go to the District's website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org and follow the AMI icon/link.

Once the meter installation starts, customers will be able to find updates on the District's website as well.



Construction on Firgrove's reservoir started in September 2009 and was completed in January 2013. The system serves 23,747 people in Pierce County.



Firgrove's New Tank Exceeds Expectations

Firgrove Mutual Water Company's Zone 2 reservoir (pictured above) has won three national awards. The Steel Tank Institute selected it as the 2012 Standpipe of the Year. It was a runner-up from over 200 entries in Tnemec's 2012 Tank of the Year contest, and the Society for Protective Coatings selected it for the 2014 William Johnson Award. However, Firgrove never set out to win any awards. It only wanted to improve the service to customers.

Firgrove knew for a long time that it needed a new water storage tank. The 2002 Water System Plan (WSP) recommended replacing an older reservoir with a larger one and adding another million-gallon tank besides. The operators didn't need a study to tell them they were short on storage capacity in their primary zone. "You could see the water from lawn sprinklers dancing up and down in parts of the system as our larger pumps turned on and off," said Leonard Horton, Firgrove's Superintendent. "It was like

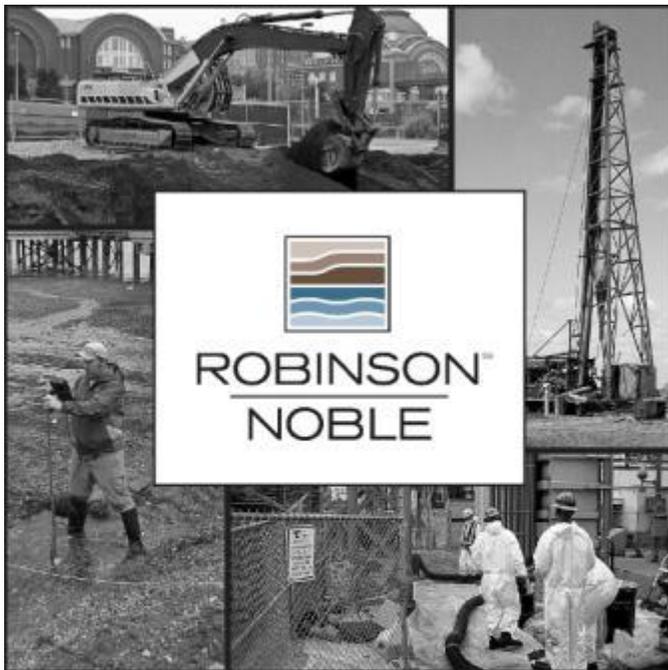
the water system was hyperventilating."

The ink was hardly dry on the WSP when developers notified the water company they were planning to convert a golf course to 1,700 new homes. Firgrove immediately updated their storage calculations. The numbers were daunting. The volume was now 3 million gallons and cost projections were uncertain as construction prices spiraled up before the financial crash of 2008.

Location and financing

There were not many suitable locations for the new reservoir. When Firgrove reviewed alternative tank sites, the news was shocking. "If we were not successful in locating the reservoir where we did, we stood to spend an additional million dollars or more for increased tank height and large-diameter transmission mains," said Larry Jones, Firgrove's general manager.

Another key step was financing. Firgrove applied



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Firgrove's New Tank Exceeds Expectations

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for a Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan to help with project funding. When the first application didn't succeed, they applied again and received a low interest loan for \$3 million in 2009.

The waiting continued as design documents were prepared, submitted, revised, and ultimately accepted in the timeless cycle of permitting approvals. Meanwhile, the lawn sprinklers continued their summer dance.

Decisions, decisions

Firgrove kept key staff closely involved throughout the project design. Everyone carefully considered the interlocking results of each decision. A decorative mural was proposed and embraced as a key element of the project. One day, Jones opened several email attachments to review renderings of tank mural options. "I just about fell out of my chair," he recalls. "Alternative four had my face plastered clear across the tank. Ultimately, Firgrove's Board of Trustees decided to go with another option," he added with a grin.

Storage volume requirements were scrutinized during the final design. Water stored below a certain elevation would not be available at adequate service pressure. Providing all 3 million gallons of the required storage at gravity elevation would require a 5-million gallon standpipe or a 3-million gallon elevated tank with a similarly high price tag. Firgrove decided to balance reliability and operational flexibility by providing the operational, equalization, and fireflow storage at gravity elevations and implement

a variable speed pumping system to "re-elevate" the dead standby storage in an energy-efficient manner.

The last and final wait

Following award of the construction contract in early 2011, Mother Nature unleashed the wettest spring in 117 years. The tank foundation excavation became a mud-pit that eagerly swallowed several tons of carefully placed reinforcing steel. Eventually, the weather turned sunny and progress was rapid through the summer and fall. Then, rainy fall weather slammed the gate on applying final coatings to the new tank. Progress came to a halt as rust stained the freshly welded steel through the long winter.

In 2012, construction crews remobilized and completed the long-awaited project. The lawn sprinklers danced their last dances as the mural artists applied a forest scene to the tank. Different parts of the new landscaping thrived and withered in accord with some obscure inner impulses. The new equipment went through seemingly endless tests. Final punch lists were negotiated and then, in the way of all major construction projects, a sudden quiet descended on the site. The water company was left alone to operate their new facility. And, the local community had a highly visible and attractive asset.

*Mike Nepple,
Coldwater Project Services*

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August Water Co-op Meeting & BBQ!

The Regional Water Cooperative of Pierce County cordially invites you, your staff members, city council members, board members, and legislative representatives to our second annual August Water Co-op Meeting/Barbeque. Please bring your own lawn chairs.

SUNNYSIDE BEACH PARK

Chambers Creek Road
Steilacoom, WA 98388

THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 2014

12:00 PM TO 3:30 PM

RSVP by August 4, 2014 to Kathy Crawford at katmc@live.com or call 360.431.2475



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Tom Roman

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Please extend a warm welcome to Randy and Tom and their companies!