



# TCPUD

## QUARTERLY

# NEWS

A Report to Our Community

January 2012

## Holiday Lights at the Tahoe City "Wye"

TCPUD has partnered with local businesses, the Tahoe City Rotary Foundation, Kiwanis Club and Liberty Energy to light up the Tahoe City Wye this holiday season. Contributing businesses include: River Grill, Plumas Bank, Swigards, Blue Agave, The Cobblestone Center, Tahoe Inn, Wolfdale's, Ed Beauchamp Electric, Tahoe Marine Excavating, Bridgetender, Cabin Fever and Tahoe Sierra Recreation Foundation. Many thanks to all.

A special thanks to Tahoe City Downtown Association for their assistance in securing funding from Liberty Energy for this community project.

## Upcoming Recreation Activities at Rideout Community Center

- Father/Daughter Night Out  
February 4th at 6pm
- Soup and Chili Showdown  
February 25th at 6pm
- Mother/Son Night Out  
March 24th at 6pm

Stay tuned for the NEW Seniors Program at Rideout!

## 2012 Budget Adopted

The 2012 budget was approved at the November 2011 board meeting.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2012 TCPUD BUDGET INCLUDE:

- A 3.1% **decrease** in total operating budget to \$8.2 million
- Additional \$8 million is budgeted for capital expenditures of which \$3.3 million is grant funded
- TCPUD employees continue to pick up more of their benefit costs which contributed to the budget savings. The other significant factor in the budget savings is the new contract with the employees union that has no change in salaries for three years.
- Staffing levels have been flat for the last 10 years, despite an increase in projects. For 2012 one half of a project assistant position will be added in the engineering department due to the high volume of capital projects planned.

## Tahoe City Golf Course Update

This fall the TCPUD reached an agreement with the Bechdolt family to purchase the Tahoe City Golf Course. The purchase is contingent on a number of factors and the ownership will likely be a partnership with Placer County and other agencies. If there is any District funding utilized for the golf course it will come from property tax revenues and will be completely separate from the water and sewer operations of the TCPUD. NO money from water and sewer rates can be used for the purchase or operation of a golf course.

Visit the website at [www.tahoecitypud.com](http://www.tahoecitypud.com) to stay informed of current updates and upcoming meetings regarding the Tahoe City Golf Course.

## Why Do I Pay a Base Rate For Water?

Recently a number of seasonal residents have asked about the District's monthly "base" water rate and why they were being charged for a service that they may not use for periods of the year.

The Tahoe City PUD, like other municipal water systems, charges rates to cover costs that exist year-round, whether a home is occupied or not. Very little of the "cost of water service" is the water itself. The vast majority (over 90%) of ... *continued on pg 4*

# TCPUD Bids “Farewell” to Two Long-time Employees

The TCPUD is sad to say goodbye to two long-term employees of the District. Both Jim Dykstra and Brad Stocking retired at the end of 2011. We wish them much happiness in their retirement and appreciate all they have contributed to the District and to our community.



## BRAD STOCKING

Brad just completed his 21st year with the TCPUD and successfully served in several positions during his tenure with the District. Brad's first 10 years were in the Utilities Department as an Operations Specialist. He did a great job of operating the vactor, took care of the District's equipment, and was instrumental in commercial driver training for employees.

His “crossover career” includes the past 11 years in the Engineering Department with the majority of this time as a Construction Inspector. In this role, Brad was the “go to guy” for testing procedures for new water facilities. He was the main inspector for water and sewer components for private development projects and worked closely with private owners, contractors and the District's utility crews to coordinate projects. Brad has done a great job of balancing the interests of both the private property owner and the District creating a “win-win” outcome. Brad facilitated communication between all parties and went above and beyond to look out for our customers and their best interests.

Throughout his years with the District, Brad's heart was always in what he did and he has been dependable in his duties. Brad's been generous with

sharing his knowledge and helped train other staff. He became known as a good problem solver and always had a cheerful countenance.

When Brad looks back at what he is most proud of the first thing that comes up is the extensive repair work he and team members completed after the “Flood of 1997”. He and other crew members worked ‘round the clock for weeks straight to clean up Tahoe City after severe mud slides wiped out man-holes and created damage throughout our community.

Other District projects Brad has played an important role in include: Observation Drive Water Line Replacement, Highlands Fire Hydrant Project, Lake Forest Water System Improvements, and Placer County projects including Lake Forest, Timberland, and Tahoe Park Erosion Control Projects, and countless other District capital projects, utility main extensions, and County and Caltrans projects.

On a personal note, Brad is very proud to be a new grandpa to baby Mason, who was born in November.

Brad is certainly a people person and has enjoyed working with so many great people in his time with the TCPUD. The District is extremely grateful to Brad for all he has accomplished for TCPUD in the past 21 years and wishes him happiness in his retirement.

## JIM DYKSTRA

TCPUD was extremely fortunate to be able to hire Jim Dykstra in July 2000.



Prior to his time at the District, he had a very successful career in finance that included being the Controller for Dole Food Company. Jim worked for Dole for 12 years, six of which he was

based in Costa Rica.

Known by some as “Big Red” and by many as an amazing financial officer, Jim has made a positive impact in many areas of finance and administration for the District.

### His leadership and accomplishments include:

- Amending District financial policies and procedures that allowed for 11 years of “clean audits”, healthy cash flows and stable reserves.
- Instituting strong project financial tracking and reporting, further enhancing the District's ability to secure grants for future capital projects.
- Completing eight financings for the District (primarily for water and sewer projects); and securing attractive rates at low costs creating significant savings for the District and the taxpayers.
- Growing the District's working capital and securing a line of credit that enabled the District to secure large grants that were funded on a reimbursable basis.
- Encouraging the Board to limit the District's financial exposure on the retiree medical plan while preserving benefits for retirees, as well as taking proactive steps to limit the District's exposure related to its pension plan.
- Playing an essential role in two State Revolving Fund processes where the District successfully secured low interest loans for capital projects.
- Contributing to the development of a 5-year rate structure and the Proposition 218 process that has allowed the District to address its aging infrastructure in a stable and methodical manner.
- Resolving insurance claims to minimize District liability claims and thus lowered insurance premiums.
- Overseeing the hiring, training, and tracking processes that significantly reduced workers compensation rates, saving rate and taxpayer money.

Some of the accomplishments noted are projects that other agencies typically

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hire an outside consultant to complete.

The District takes great pride in the fact that Jim accomplished all of this within his role as Director of Accounting & Employee Services/Treasurer which is in alignment with the District's core value of financial stability and integrity.

### Public projects completed

During Jim's tenure the District has completed a significant number of public projects in which he has played a critically important role. These projects include: Commons Beach Restoration and Enhancement project; Truckee River Outlet Parcel, Heritage Plaza; WCB/Lake Forest Boat Ramp renovation; Harbor Master Pump Station; all the phases of Lakeside Bike Trail in Tahoe City; the safety measures at the Sequoia trail crossing; and the design of the Homewood Trail. TCPUD would not have been able to undertake these projects without raising over \$20 million in grant funding from 10 different funding sources. While mainly behind the scenes, Jim's role was invaluable to securing the funds and satisfying the lengthy, complicated, and varying reporting requirements from Federal, State, Regional and local funding agencies.

### Customer Service

Despite his immense responsibilities, it has not been unusual to find Jim spending individual time with customers who have had questions about their account or the District's finances. He set an example for his staff to respond personally and promptly with all customers.

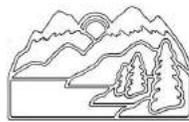
Jim's customers have also included the operating Department Managers who required timely, accurate financial reporting to effectively manage their budgets. In addition, Jim oversaw the District's human resources department and has provided important training, safety and security improvements.

Co-workers comment on how helpful Jim always is and how they enjoyed working with him. Jim has been receiv-

ing chemotherapy for the last four years to keep his multiple myeloma (blood cancer) in complete remission but no matter what was going on or how busy he was, Jim "stood tall", was accessible and always took time to help people.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Board President Ron Treabess commented on Jim's retirement. "The District and the TCPUD community as a whole have benefited greatly from Jim Dykstra's tenure of service. While he will be missed, his accomplishments will always have a positive lasting effect on residents within the District. We, the Board of Directors, in speaking for the community, wish Jim well in all his future endeavors. Thanks "Big Red".

While often behind the scenes to the public at large, there is no doubt that Jim's 11 years of leadership, vision and professionalism allowed TCPUD to grow and strengthen its financial integrity, accountability, and significantly further its mission for the taxpayers of the District.



**TCPUD Mission:**  
*To serve the people,  
our community,  
and its environment  
by providing safe and  
reliable water and sewer  
service for the protection  
of public health,  
and parks and recreation  
services to enhance  
quality of life.*

## Employee of the Year

TCPUD is proud to have such a dedicated group of team players, all committed to reaching the goals of the District while providing outstanding customer service to our community. Our employees take pride in the role they play and each year employees of the District nominate one their fellow co-workers to be recognized for their contribution as the Employee of the Year.

This year the Employee of the Year award goes to our Recreation Coordinator, **SHAUN CHILKOTOWSKY**.



Shaun joined our team in September 2010 and in a short time he has made a huge difference in the quality of parks and recreation programs with significant positive impact on our community. Participation has grown in all programs and events that he oversees. He has brought new enthusiasm to our recreation department that rubs off on everyone.

Some comments about Shaun include:

"Shaun is amazing with the kids. I've never seen anyone so involved."

"He has an awesome attitude and is always thinking of what to do next to improve programs and events."

"Shaun makes every kid feel included."

"Shaun has created a special place at the Kidz Club."

"Shaun has brought fresh, new ideas to our community."

Bob Bolton, Director of Parks and Recreation commented "Since day one I have been impressed with Shaun's ideas and his ability to bring them to life." TCPUD is extremely proud to recognize an outstanding employee like Shaun Chilkotowsky who works hard to serve our community.

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**Why Do I Pay a Base Rate For Water**  
the cost for service is incurred year-round to provide water service. These costs include on-going repairs and maintenance to main transmission lines, pumps, tanks, equipment and telemetry systems, required water quality testing, reporting and monitoring, and around the clock staffing 365 days a year. TCPUD has structured its rates to encourage conservation with 20% of the rate revenue coming from consumption and the remainder coming from the base rates. Whether someone uses their home or not, these costs are incurred in order for everyone to have water service and fire protection available at all times throughout the year.

For any questions regarding water service please call 530-583-3796, x21.

## What NOT to Flush!

In order to prevent blockages in your drains and in the public sewer system, here's an important list of WHAT NOT to put down the drain, garbage disposal or toilet:

- fats, oils or grease from cooking
- anti-freeze
- "flushable" wipes
- feminine hygiene products
- paper towels or kleenex
- coffee grinds and egg shells
- produce stickers or labels
- disposable diapers
- cat litter
- condoms

### WHAT COULD GO WRONG?

Any of these items have the potential to cause blockages in both the public sewer and your own private system. Blockages can lead to raw sewage overflowing into your home or your neighbor's home, into yards, streets, and ultimately into the Lake, causing an expensive and unpleasant cleanup for the homeowners and the District.

Blockages can cause increase sewer system operation and maintenance costs resulting in higher customers bills, as well as cause serious pollution issues.

# Welcome New Faces at TCPUD

With some recent job openings, TCPUD has welcomed a few new faces with the addition of Cirra Cantisano, Todd Miller, and Pat Potter to our team. Each of these new team members are already making a positive contribution to the District and the community we serve.

• **CIRRA CANTISANO** joined the accounting department as an Account Clerk II (Payroll & Accounts Payable). Cirra has an AA in Accounting/Business and most recently worked as the Accounting Manager for Granite Peak Management in Squaw Valley. Cirra has lived in Tahoe for 13 years and currently lives



in Tahoma with her husband, Ian and dog, Kuma. When she's not working she likes to ski, hike, run, bike, wakeboard, read and cook.

• **TODD MILLER** is an Operations Specialist I and is currently working as a vactor operator for the District and enjoys his job immensely. Todd's positive attitude and willingness to learn make



TODD MILLER

him a valuable asset to the utilities crew. Prior to joining the TCPUD, Todd worked for Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Company for 13 years. He lives in Reno with his family and is the area coordinator for the Sierra Youth Football League at McQueen High.

• **PAT POTTER** is an Operations Specialist I who is currently working with the underground crew doing repairs and maintenance to the District's water and sewer lines. Pat comes to the District with 14 years of experience



in underground construction; he worked for both Perata Excavation and Aspen Developers. His experience combined with his positive attitude and strong work ethic makes him a valuable member of the utilities crew. Pat lives in Verdi with his family and enjoys riding motorcycles in his free time.



**The Trashion Show!**  
TCPUD partnered with SWEP and other local agencies to promote conservation at our local schools.

TCPUD and other local agencies partnered with Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships (SWEP) to conduct an education and outreach campaign for our local schools around water quality protection and water conservation. As part of the campaign, the SWEP Envirolution Club hosted The Trashion Show, an educational assembly in which members show off the artistic outfits they created from under-recycled and non-biodegradable materials. Each outfit has an environmental message promoting conservation, efficiency and personal action. The goal of The Trashion Show is to empower students to take action at home, at school, and within their community. TCPUD is proud to be a partner of this campaign.