



TCPUD

QUARTERLY

NEWS

75 Years of Service 1938-2013

A Report to Our Community

October 2013

Celebrating 75 Years! A TCPUD Time Capsule

- 1938 • Founded, the first local government located within the Tahoe Basin
 - 1939 • Acquires Tahoe City water system
 - 1940 • Volunteer fire department established
 - 1947 • Commons Beach and street lighting
 - 1949 • Placer County appoints TCPUD agent of Commons Beach
 - 1952 • Tahoe City sewer system complete
 - 1957 • Board of Directors expands to 5
 - 1963 • Residents vote in Commons Beach funds
 - 1964 • Lake Forest, Dollar Point and the Highlands annexed into TCPUD
 - 1969 • Residents support recreation services
 - 1972 • Sewer collection system completed
 - 1973 • Bike Trail system begins
 - 1973 • Acquires Rubicon Water System
 - 1986 • Tahoe City Boardwalk completed
 - 1993 • Acquires Quail Lake Water System
 - 1994 • Administrative center completed
 - 2000 • Tahoe City sidewalks completed
 - 2003 • Commons Beach Beautification project completed
 - 2006 • Truckee River/Lake Tahoe Outlet park completed
 - 2006 • Free Concerts at Commons Beach series begins
 - 2007 • Heritage Plaza completed
 - 2008 • 1st new sewer facility since the '70's – Harbor Master Pump Station
 - 2008 • Rideout Community Center opens
 - 2012 • With public partners, acquires Tahoe City Golf Course
 - 2012 • Acquires/rebuilds Lake Forest Water
 - 2012 • Tahoe City Lakeside Trail completed
- See insert for more TCPUD history.

Budget: How do we use Your funds?

The Tahoe City Public Utility District (TCPUD) begins its 2014 budget process (annual work plan) in late August and completes the process in November with the adoption of the budget at the regularly scheduled November Board meeting. There are numerous steps and processes to putting together the District's annual budget plan, such as setting District priorities and goals, evaluating and setting budget assumptions for economic conditions, and labor and capital needs.

The 2013 operating revenue and expenses are \$13,210,253 and \$8,239,572 respectively. We project net income of \$4,970,681 to be used for current and future capital replacements. We anticipate having an additional \$375,000 of net income due to savings in expenses. 2013 budgeted capital expenditures are \$6,636,775 and we expect not to spend the full amount due to lower cost estimates and moving projects to later years. We encourage the public to be involved in the budget process – it is your rate and tax revenue we use to serve your home and community.

There are several methods for you to participate in the budget process. Email us via our web site at www.tahoecitypubd.com and click on the "Contact Us" link, call us at 530-583-3796, or attend one of several Board and committee meetings held at the TCPUD.

Please note that additional meetings may be scheduled as needed. The meeting schedule is posted at www.tahoecitypubd.com. If you'd like to receive email meeting notifications, please contact Jess at 530-580-6334.

Interested in attending the Board Meetings but can't make it in person? No worries! All Board of Directors meetings can be viewed online via live streaming. Just log onto www.tahoecitypubd.com and watch the meeting at your own convenience.

If you have any questions about the budget process, please contact Ramona Cruz at rcruz@tcpud.org, or call 530-580-6047.

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.

TCPUD Board & Committees 4th Quarter Meetings Schedule

Parks & Rec Committee – Oct 15, 9am
 Finance Committee – Oct 16, 8:30am
 Sewer & Water Committee – Oct 17, 7am
 Board meeting – Oct 18, 8:30am
 Golf Course Oversight – Oct 30, 1pm

Parks & Rec Committee – Nov 5, 9am
 Budget Workshop – Nov 5, 4pm
 Sewer & Water Committee – Nov 7, 7am
 Finance Committee – Nov 8, 8:30am
 Board meeting – Nov 15, 8:30am

Parks & Rec Committee – Dec 10, 9am
 Sewer & Water Committee – Dec 12, 7am
 Finance Committee – Dec 13, 8:30am
 Board meeting – Dec 20, 8:30am

Winterizing Tips to Avoid Frozen Pipes – Be Prepared for Winter

Significant property damage and thousands of gallons of water are wasted every winter by frozen water pipes. Here are some general guidelines to help prevent frozen pipes.

- When unoccupied, shut off water to the house and drain all internal piping. Do not rely on leaving your heat on to prevent frozen pipes.
 - Never run bleeder lines or trickle small amounts of water out of fixtures to prevent freezing. This is a waste of water and is a violation TCPUD Ordinance 264.
 - Make sure any exposed or outside plumbing is drained and protected from the elements.
 - Take measures to allow heat to reach plumbing (i.e., leave cabinet doors open under sinks).
 - Close vents to crawl spaces to avoid drafts.
 - Locate and mark the water shut off box at the street with a stake.
 - Locate and mark sewer cleanouts.
- For more info call 530-580-6325.

TCPUD Has New Phone Extensions

In September, TCPUD installed a new phone system that includes new direct phone lines and extensions for departments and key personnel. The old phone extensions no longer work, but you can access a complete phone directory on our website at: <http://www.tcpud.org/download/general/2013empphonenumberlist.pdf>.

TAHOE CITY PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT Board Members 1938 - 2013	John Dill Don Hale Lewis Mitchell Leonard Shaheen Bob Maddox Louis Madau Ron McIntyre Preston Kelley Mike Waltz Ron Treabess Park Bechdolt Dennis Schlumpf Erik Henrikson Roger Kahn Ric Winter Lou Reinkens Kelly Atchley Dan Wilkins Judy Friedman
Bill Vernon Ernest Pomin Albert Henry N.R. Mayfield James Martin Bill Bechdolt Albert Henry, Jr. Martin Spitsen W. Russell Robert Pomin Herbert Beck Steve Korich Skip Sherman	

Fall Parks & Recreation Special Events

• Fall Festival & Pumpkin Patch

Saturday, Oct 19, 10am-2pm, Rideout

Bring the family and join us for a great day of fun and games at the annual Fall Festival & Pumpkin Patch at Rideout Community Center. There will be something for everyone including costume contest, pony rides, pumpkin patch, carnival games, bounce house, pie eating contest, and more! Pumpkins and BBQ will be available for purchase.



• Tahoe City Trick or Treat

Thursday, Oct 31, 4:30pm-6:30pm, Tahoe City

Tahoe City Parks and Recreation Department Staff and businesses in downtown Tahoe City present a fun and safe place to Trick or Treat this Halloween. Check in at Heritage Plaza (next to Syd's Bagelry) to get a goody bag and surprise, and a list of participating businesses. FREE.

• Breakfast with Santa

Saturday, Dec 14, 9am - Noon, TC Golf Course

Co-sponsored by Tahoe City Rotary, enjoy breakfast with Santa and his helpers. Terrific photos ops. FREE.

• Santa's Calling

Thursday and Friday, Dec 12-13, early evening

Naughty or nice, Santa is on his way to spread joy and cheer this holiday season. Send a note to Santa and he or Mrs. Claus will answer all notes they receive from local boys and girls with a personalized phone call. Come by the Recreation Office at Rideout and fill out a "Secret Santa" form, or download it from our website. All forms must be submitted to the Recreation Office by Noon, Wednesday, Dec 11.



Tahoe City Winter Sports Park

Tahoe City Public Utility District Parks and Recreation Department, Tahoe X-Country and Duncan Golf Management teamed up again to create the Tahoe City Winter Sports Park. Located at the Golf Course, behind Bank of America in downtown Tahoe City, the Winter Sports Park offers 3km of cross-country ski trails groomed daily for skate skiing and striding, and hiking trails and snowshoeing loop. Dog friendly trails are open daily – please clean up after your pet with the bags and garbage can provided. A sledding hill just outside the clubhouse is specially designed for safe, maximum family fun. Equipment rentals are available during the winter season. The Golf Course restaurant offers scrumptious faire for all ages.

Some events for the upcoming 2013-2014 season include: The Cobblestone Relays, Family Biathlon races, Skiing with Santa, and Full Moon snowshoeing and skiing.

In addition, TCPUD is working with local ice skating advocates to investigate the possibility of adding ice skating to the Winter Sports Park.



The Winter Sports Park is available for rent for birthday parties, special events and other private community activities. It will be open daily through the Holiday season. After January 5th, it will be open for rentals and food/beverage on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. Ski and snowshoe trails will be open Monday-Thursday with an "iron ranger" fee system, and for season passholders.

Open every Saturday night throughout the season for night skiing, bonfires, sledding and family fun.

For more information call the Winter Sports Park at 530-583-1516.



75 Years of Service
1938 - 2013

Tahoe City Public Utility District

Celebrating 75 Years of Service to our Community

As we celebrate 150 years of Tahoe City and 75 years of the Tahoe City Public Utility District, we reflect on what brought our forefathers and mothers to settle here. We chose a theme for the celebration.

"Tahoe City ... Founded and Sustained by People of Character Committed to Community"

Tahoe City has never been an easy place to make a living or to survive. No one was ever forced to come here leaving the comforts of more developed communities with easier climates and access to supplies and jobs. We chose to come here – some for adventure and recreation, some for independence, and almost all for the incredible natural beauty. To survive and prosper we had to work in partnership, relying on each other's help, and committing our time and talents to the benefit of our neighbors and families.

An important part of that partnership was the creation of the first locally-based government in the Tahoe Basin. From its beginning, with a vote of its residents, Tahoe City Public Utility District was charged with solving problems for the community. While the first undertaking was water service, the community quickly looked to its local leaders to address other issues – sewer service, clean-up and care of Commons Beach, and later to streetlights, bike trails, boardwalks, community buildings, sidewalks and parks. When the community asked for help, TCPUD worked to find solutions. Sometimes the solutions were supporting volunteer efforts, sometimes it was through our own governmental authority, and sometimes it included becoming a voice urging regional, State and Federal agencies to accept their responsibilities to our community. TCPUD has provided a local forum however needed.

In addition to the growth of services, TCPUD's boundaries grew as well. Today, TCPUD serves communities spread over one third of Lake Tahoe's shoreline, the second largest utility service area at the Lake. Our customers are dispersed over many miles, creating the largest mileage of pipeline per customer not only in the Tahoe Basin, but in comparison to most communities across the country. TCPUD's top priority is the maintenance of these water and sewer pipelines and facilities which are critically important to public health, safety, and environmental protection.

Over the years, other services were requested of the TCPUD. The vast majority of our community is employed in businesses which serve our second homeowners and visitors. We rely heavily on their support and use of the area for their recreation. Thus parks and recreation became an important desire of our community for both local and visitor use. In 1947 local maintenance of Commons Beach began, and in 1969 a community survey added recreation services to the PUD pervue.

water and sewer, and parks and recreation. They have been fiscal stewards of a portion of your tax dollars and of your rates. They have understood your ever-increasing desire for transparency and accountability, initiating web-streamed meetings, a comprehensive website, and insistence on constant communications with customers regarding projects and issues.

Public service is about solving problems and I am very proud to work with a team of 40 full-time dedicated, professional employees, whose main purpose is to serve. Our seasonal staff is equally dedicated, willing to work during the busiest of seasons and serve our community's needs. At times staff must play a regulatory role, ensuring the public health and safety through inspecting your connections to the public water or sewer system. At times we play an emergency service role available 24/7, 365 days a year, when a blizzard, power outage, flood, or fire impacts water or sewer service. At times it is in a leadership role, developing community facilities or representing our community's interests in projects other agencies are



Today, TCPUD maintains the largest network of formalized bike trails in the Basin, one of the busiest beachfront parks, a very active boat launch facility, and supports award-winning youth and adult recreation programs. Our parks and recreation serves over 1,000,000 users every year.

During the last 75 years, you have elected 32 leaders to serve as Board members. They have been custodians to watch over your

undertaking. And, every day of the year we provide homes and families services which make your lives safer and healthier. Whatever the role, the TCPUD staff is ready, willing and trained to respond.

As we celebrate Tahoe City's 150th and Tahoe City PUD's 75th in 2013, we focus on the legacy of community founded by those who came before us. The staff and Board of TCPUD are proud to carry on the example Bill Vernon set for us 75 years ago – to serve our customers and our community in whatever way we are needed.

Yours in dedicated service,
Cindy Gustafson
TCPUD General Manager

TCPUD History

The following has been excerpted from a series of articles by Laura Read first published in the summer 2013 in the Sierra Sun.

On December 12, 1938, 45 of 52 Tahoe City residents voted to establish the Tahoe City Public Utility District, people were expecting big things. The building industry was booming, and 20,000 visitors were arriving annually to see the mountain lake. At the turn of the century when the Duane Bliss family set railroad track from Truckee and built the Tahoe Tavern hotel south of the Truckee River, local residents found domestic water where they could, and most of it coming from natural mountain springs. For a while, the water was stored in two, and later three, 12,000-gallon redwood tanks, and channeled through pipes across what is now the Tahoe City Golf Course.

Water pipes snaked along Front Street (now Highway 28) in hand-dug ditches passing the town's big pine tree (removed by Caltrans in 1994) and descending to a post office and pier buildings on the lakeshore. The fledgling system served railroad car barns, a Chinese restaurant and private homes. As new houses were built, new pipes were laid. In 1901, Tahoe Tavern owners built their own private water system, which included a dam north of town at Antone Meadows. Everyone needed more water.

The kickstarter for the new TCPUD was, as one might imagine, controversial. It was rooted in a promise that realtors for the new Bittencourt Subdivision, between Grove and Jack Pine streets, would develop a water source for the properties. When that never came through, in 1932 the Bittencourt homeowners made a pact with the Tahoe Tavern to hook into the Tavern's system from Antone Meadows. The homeowners paid for supplies and installation. In 1938, four new business owners wanted to charge homeowners more for their water use. The owners refused.

On December 1 the homeowners met in Vernon's home to decide what to do. Their solution: they needed to gain control over their own water and form a public utility district, owned and funded by the people. Within a few weeks, the historic December 12 vote was made. The TCPUD was born.

Board members A.M. "Joe" Henry, Ernest

H. Pomin, and Bill Vernon were elected on March 17, 1939. The directors voted Vernon to be both board president and general manager. Annual user rates were set at \$15.

Right away, there was trouble. In the summer of 1939, a few days before the Fourth of July — the water suddenly dried up. Someone had shut off the Antone Meadows dam valve and sawed off the valve stems. A disaster. Water was needed on hand during the Fourth of July in case of fire.

The newspaper guessed the vandalism was the work of "pranksters," but it was suspected that a Tahoe Tavern owner did the damage himself in order to keep water from reaching the Bittencourt Tract.

The District was too young to have any budget for repairs, so the directors signed a personal \$300 note with Bank of America to rig a new system. By July 3, a fix was in place in time for the celebrations.

In 1909, 24-year-old Bill Vernon was playing the coronet in Riverside, California when his bandleader suggested he join a music group at Lake Tahoe for the summer. The Tahoe Tavern had just added 80 rooms, a casino and a ballroom, and wanted music played on its pier. Bill's 500-mile journey to Tahoe City launched an historic 70-year career that gave Tahoe City its many footings for success.



If not for Bill Vernon's leadership and mix of skills as manager, the town wouldn't have been poised to make the most of the expansive 1950s and the 1960 Olympics bonanzas. Vernon was a Tahoe City Rotary founder, a North Lake Tahoe Historical Society founder, a lifetime member of the Lake Tahoe Ski Club, and helped form the volunteer fire department. But his most lasting contribution was the water district.

"We started with nothing but a determina-

tion to succeed in the face of some doubts", Vernon reflected. Wrestling with disarray and dissention, and thwarting more than a few disasters, he decidedly stamped out doubts.

Vernon inherited a jack-of-all-trades aptitude from his homesteading father, who was a farmer, pool hall owner and builder. Both leader and laborer, Bill maintained water lines, cleaned storage tanks and managed the finances. He juggled other jobs to make ends meet including night watchman at Tahoe Tavern and managing the Truckee Tahoe Lumber Company when its owner, Charles Cross, left to fight in World War II.

By mid-century, the town's population grew rapidly. During the 1940s, new subdivisions went in around the future Tahoe City Golf Course and the water district expanded to meet homeowner requests for service. TCPUD took over responsibility for the lakefront park, Commons Beach, which was being neglected by the County as vagrants and unruly types were leaving garbage. Vernon's duties now included picking up after them and cleaning toilets.

In 1947, the man of many talents ran for Justice of the Peace and was elected. He bought a building downtown and moved his family in upstairs. His wife, Ethel, operated a souvenir shop downstairs, he held Justice of the Peace hours in a front room and used the back section as the Utility District office.

In 1964, 25 years after he accepted the TCPUD job, Bill Vernon retired. He was almost 80. He lived until he was 97 and is buried in Tahoe City's Trail's End Cemetery.

In his memoir, Vernon is humble about his legacy: "Supplying Tahoe City Public Utility District, probably the smallest such district in the United States, with the needed water and sanitary sewer service, had been a long and tedious job, especially the sewer service, but it was now finished and we had a feeling of satisfaction."

As the North Shore population swelled, the Tahoe City Public Utility District grew as well. Today it has 80 miles of water lines, 10 ground water wells, 11 storage tanks, six booster pump stations, five elected board members, and a \$1.6 million water operations budget.

More TCPUD history will continue in the next newsletter.