

## In The Works ~ A Newsletter for Citizens

### Basin 5 Project Open House

Due to the very favorable bidding on the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades, the USDA has graciously given preliminary approval for the City of Shelton to use the excess funding to complete the entirety of the Basin 5 Project.

The Basin 5 project will reduce the inflow and infiltration of ground water into the City's sewer system, and lessen the burden on the treatment plant. It will also afford citizens the opportunity to have their aging sewer laterals replaced (if necessary) as a part of this project and at no cost to the homeowner.

**To learn more about this project, please join us at the Civic Center on Thursday, April 29, from 6:30 to 8 pm for an informational presentation and the opportunity to ask any questions.**

### Satellite Plant Ribbon Cutting

The City of Shelton held a ribbon cutting ceremony to mark the completion of the Satellite Water Reclamation Plant on January 23. U.S. Congressman Norm Dicks was the keynote speaker along with city, county, state and federal representatives to officially dedicate the plant. A group of onlookers witnessed the ribbon cutting and then took a tour of the new \$20.5 million plant.

The two and a half year project included construction of four miles of transmission main and the Satellite Water Reclamation Plant (SWRP). Wastewater from both state facilities will be treated and processed to provide Class A Reclaimed Water for beneficial uses. Washington Correctional Center has transferred all their wastewater to the new facility and has nearly completed demolition of their old wastewater treatment plant. The SWRP will initially serve the Washington Correctional Center and Washington State Patrol Academy with opportunities for additional customers.



### Simpson Bridge Replaced



As most have probably noticed, Simpson has returned their railroad to operational status. The replacement of the bridge crossing Goldsborough Creek was completed in February. On March 31, City crews were able to reactivate the Water Transmission Main associated with the bridge repair. One of the two primary transmission mains serving the south portion of town has been out of service since construction of the bridge repairs started late last year. This was the final step in repairs to critical local infrastructure damaged by the severe weather experienced in December 2008.

## Words from the Public Works Director ~ Steve Goins

Maintenance of Shelton's streets is perhaps the most controversial, debated, and least understood responsibility of the Public Works Department. Judging by appearances, I can understand why the community would be frustrated, even fed up, with the current stripped down maintenance program. The City collects property taxes, so why can't we keep up with the streets? There's no simple answer, but here's a partial explanation.



The street utility is responsible for all alley and road maintenance. That's not just pavement; this also includes traffic signals, traffic signs and striping, road safety features (such as guard rails), roadside landscape maintenance, street sweeping, and snow removal. The Street Utility operations and maintenance (O & M) budget includes materials (gravel, sand, salt), supplies (fuel, small tools), street crew salaries and benefits, administrative overhead (i.e. yours truly), liability insurance, utilities (power for city street lights), and the maintenance and replacement of all equipment used for this array of duties.

Shelton has over 64 miles of roads, from quiet residential streets to well traveled arterials such as Railroad Avenue and Wallace Kneeland Boulevard (this include alleys). The entire 2010 Street Utility O & M budget is \$961,366 (almost 50% of which goes towards maintenance, administration and overhead); this is just far too little budget to keep up. The Street Utility also funds road improvement upgrades considered capital projects, such as the Northcliff Improvement Project and the annual chip seal program. However, these capital projects rely heavily on local, state and federal transportation grants and low-interest loans, and in most cases require some local matching funds. Scratching together local match funds has always been difficult and in recent times... nearly impossible, particularly for larger projects.

We are committed to a more robust maintenance program, but we have a massive backlog of critical needs. For instance, while it may not look as worn for wear as other streets in town, Wallace Kneeland Blvd. is in trouble. This is a critical regional link for commerce and safety, and we need to ensure it is whole. So we are now poised to commence a road restoration project between Olympic Highway North and Shelton Springs Road. Additionally, we are diligently seeking funds for other key roadway improvements, including plans to restore several roads in the Angleside/Hillcrest area (as part of the Basin 5 project—which will reduce inflow & infiltration), and we hope to expand the chip seal program, adding years of life to as many local streets as possible.

To be candid, Shelton suffers from decades of deferred road maintenance, but that doesn't mean we've given up trying. Realistically, it may take a generation or more to close the gap, and will surely require tapping different funding sources. BUT! Shelton Public Works staff and crews on the streets are committed to our roadways 100%. Them's the facts.

*"Success doesn't come to you...you go to it." ~ Marva Collins*



Mayor Tarrant & Peter McMillan, from USDA RD, at the Ground Breaking Ceremony

### Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades Ground Breaking Ceremony

The City celebrated the start of the Wastewater Treatment System Rehabilitation Project with a groundbreaking ceremony January 5, 2010. Many people involved or interested in the project congregated on a rainy day to hear speeches about the importance of this project to the City and the region. US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development will provide federal stimulus funding to upgrade the aging wastewater treatment plant and pump station. This project will take about two years to complete. The changes include upgrades to more energy efficient equipment, additional operations such as equipment to produce Class A biosolids that can be used for fertilizer, and computer

system for monitoring the process. The computer system will monitor not only downtown plant, but also the newly constructed Satellite plant and the two pump stations, Front Street Pump Station being upgraded and Kneeland Park Pump Station being constructed. The expansion and upgrades is engineered to service the City for the next 20 years, but with the proven skills of our plant operators it should last another 30 years.

For more information, call Dennis McDonald 432-5167.

### Rain Gardens for Water Quality (and Beautiful Landscaping)

Until fairly recently, residential neighborhoods were designed with minimal (or no) stormwater treatment or control facilities. Most residential neighborhoods developed on what were previously naturally forested areas. These forests (by nature) used to store, filter, and slowly release stormwater, over time, to our local waterways. As development increases, our natural raingardens (native forests) are replaced by roads, rooftops, parking pads, sidewalks, and other hard surfaces. When it rains, water that previously would



Example of a residential rain garden (WSU Raingarden Handbook)

have been stored in branches, rich soils, and forest litter is instead directed (very quickly) to street gutters and, eventually, storm drains. This stormwater carries with it oil, fertilizers, pesticides, fecal coliform (from pet waste) and sediment off of our properties directly to our waterways. Recent studies have shown that much of the pollution in our waterways comes from stormwater flowing off of developed areas. YOU CAN HELP enhance Puget Sounds overall water quality by installing a stormwater raingarden on your own property. Raingardens are easy to site, design, and build and can be a great enhancement to your properties landscaping and overall appearance. You can learn how to locate, design, and build your own raingarden by downloading and reading Washington

- Upcoming in Future Editions of**
- Kneeland Park Pump Station Project Completion
  - Current Project Progress
  - Grant Opportunities

State University's "Rain Garden Handbook for Western Washington Homeowners" at the following link: [http://www.pierce.wsu.edu/Lid/raingarden/Raingarden\\_handbook.pdf](http://www.pierce.wsu.edu/Lid/raingarden/Raingarden_handbook.pdf). You can also call Jason Dose, Senior Planner with the City of Shelton (360-432-5102) or Karin Strelloff, Environmental Planner with Mason Conservation District (360-427-9436 x22) for additional help and guidance.

## Inside Public Works—Operations & Breaking News



### Laurel Street Stormwater System Improvements are Finished!

Taking advantage of the mild conditions and favorable weather in January, City Stormwater Crews and Roglin's Construction, Inc. completed a small, but effective, storm system upgrade in the Mt. View area. This project added and improved stormwater conveyance and collection in the area to reduce or eliminate flooding that occurs at several intersections during most heavy rain. This flooding leads to pavement damage, added maintenance, and risk to our citizens. Though the dryer than normal winter has made it a bit difficult to determine the overall success of the project, early indications are that the flooding problems in this area have been corrected.

### SPOTLIGHT ON: Sewer Department

In simple terms, the Shelton Sewer Department is the part of the City that deals with what is flushed down the drain. Operations include the main (Downtown) Treatment Plant, the new Satellite Wastewater Reclamation Plant, and associated components of the sewage collection and conveyance system.

Operation at the treatment plants includes daily testing, monitoring of the biological process of the activated sludge (yes, sewage is treated with bacteria, treatment at the Satellite Plant also includes fine screening and other more technical measures), and operation and maintenance of the chlorination equipment, generators, and odor control equipment. Discharge from these facilities is required to meet specifications of the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES); the Satellite Plant produces very clean reclaimed water that can be used for about anything but drinking water.

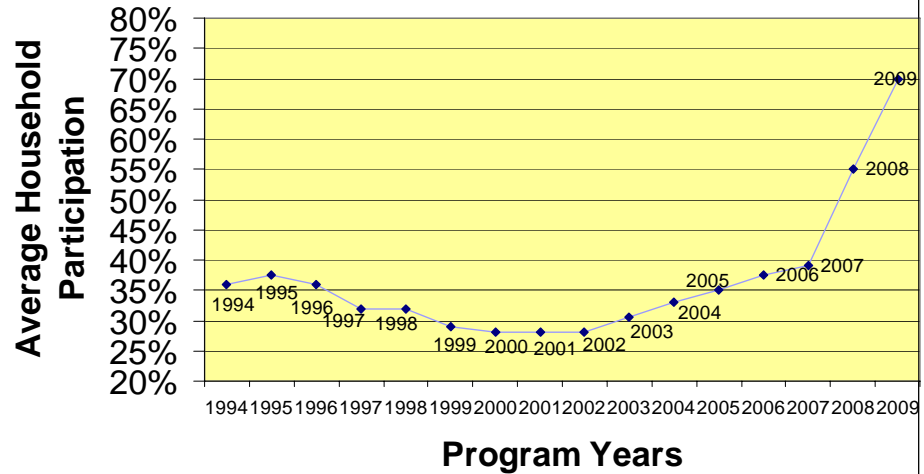
Crews also perform routine maintenance of the collection system, including transmission lines, manholes, and pump stations. The collection system is defined by eight "Basins", representing geographic areas of Shelton such as Mountain View (Basin 8), and Angleside (Basin 6). In many areas of Shelton these systems are quite old, and subject to inflow and intrusion (I & I), mainly surface flows and leaks adding water into the system which can greatly increase flows delivered to the Treatment Plant. The City completed I & I upgrades in Basin 1 (2000) and Basin 2 (2008), and expects to commence upgrades in Basin 5 (Hillcrest) in 2010.



The amount of trash, sent to the landfill, by utility customers of City of Shelton has changed drastically in just the last year. In 2008, we sent 5,443 tons of refuse to the landfill, while in 2009 we only sent 4,813 tons of refuse to the landfill. That's a reduction of 630 tons of trash, equal to roughly 1 ½ months of our normal monthly trash amount!

Much of this is largely due to the City's recent implementation of a two bin (dual stream) recycling system, as well as a more recent

## City of Shelton Curbside Recycling Participation



adoption of every other week trash service as the “base” service to City residents. These practices, while controversial to some, have resulted in **HUGE** increases in the amount of household recycling that is currently occurring. We have increased the amount of recycling being picked up from a low of 325 tons in 1995, to a high of 582 tons in 2009! The following graph clearly illustrates the drastic increase in residential recycling participation in recent years following introduction of the two bin system in 2006 and every other week trash pickup in mid 2008.

We expect to see continued increases in the amount of household participation. While we still have a long way to go in reducing the amount of waste we produce, the residents of Shelton are definitely making positive progress in reducing their impact on the planet!

*In the Works!* is a quarterly publication that serves to increase awareness and communication with the City of Shelton residents impacted by and benefiting from the ongoing efforts of the Public Works Department.

*In the Works!* is produced by staff from the City of Shelton, Public Works Department. Questions and comments may be emailed to [publicworks@ci.shelton.wa.us](mailto:publicworks@ci.shelton.wa.us). Agencies, organizations and private citizens are encouraged to submit story ideas and photographs for publication to Shelton Public Works Department, 525 W. Cota Street, Shelton WA 98584.

Now for the disclaimer: The City reserves the right to edit/use materials at it's discretion. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of the information contained herein, the City assumes no liability for errors in this publication.