

Plumas Eureka Community Services District

Plumas Pipelines

Fall Issue

November 2009

Managers Message

Greetings!

It's hard to believe I've been your General Manager for over three years now. I have truly enjoyed tackling some of the "situations" here and feel that Plumas Eureka CSD can handle anything that is thrown at it. A true testament to the strength and determination that your Board of Directors has to make Plumas Eureka the best place to live.

We're scheduling to have the CSD offices/firehouse remodeled in the spring of 2010. The remodel will add two offices and create a lot more storage area for us. Yellend Construction will be doing the work and Ed hopes to get it all done by September 2010. If you're curious about the project, feel free to come on by and look over the plans.

Of course, the "bane" of PECSD is the arsenic content in the drinking water. The California Department of Health Services has yet to respond to the preliminary engineering report that was submitted to them in June 2009. Until we hear from them, we will continue to issue notification letters for every quarter we exceed the federal limits. If you do not receive one, it means we were under the limit for the previous quarter. Also, we have a hydrologist on board who is analyzing data from surrounding aquifers in an effort to identify if there is an aquifer with low, or no, arsenic. This is an on-going project which will be discussed at our monthly Board meetings.

We're heading into winter and colder weather means ice and snow with slick surfaces for both feet and vehicles, so be careful out there. As always, feel free to contact me at 836-1953 or via email at frmotzkus@hughes.net if you have any questions.



Here's hoping you have a great holiday season and a fun filled winter. See you in the Spring! Frank

*Proudly Providing Services to Plumas Eureka since
July 1993!*

BRAIN STORM

Hopefully everyone read the “Update from The Board” letter that came to you with the quarterly arsenic warning at the end of September. It was very informative and covered the most important issues your Board is facing and the various proposals we are looking at to solve them. I want to thank Vice Chair Larry Walker for outdoing his usual excellent job in authoring the report.

The “Update” is just one of several ways we attempt to keep our constituency “in the loop”. The Pipelines is obviously one, the Fire Department sends out the Responder twice a year, members of the public serve as advisors during the annual budget process and of course we have open Board meetings the second Wednesday of each month, where the public can come and voice their opinions or just observe their Government at work.

Despite all this effort, we get very little feed back from the overwhelming majority of you. Though this may mean that you are satisfied with the decisions we are making, it is still very frustrating to me and my fellow Board members. Almost all our determinations involve spending a good deal of your hard earned money. As you may have gathered, most of the problems involve mandates from Government agencies much higher in the food chain than PECSD. We have been getting just over \$30, 000/year in property tax dollars from the County. This year because of the mess that Sacramento has gotten us into, that will go down to about \$29,000. All of this goes toward maintaining the Fire Department. The arsenic solution will require large amounts of expenditures, etc., etc., etc.



How do we pay for all of this? We can increase assessments, raise rates, reduce services if possible. Any and all of these. But we have not yet drawn on the ingenuity of our constituency. Most of you have access to email. What I am asking you to do is brain storm. Send us your ideas on how we find other sources of income. Use your imagination. The most ridiculous of ideas might just be the seed of a workable plan. I have thought of many scenarios, one that comes to mind is *how do we tap into the thousands of visitors that come here every year and use our water, put extra burdens on our wastewater facilities, present added potential of fire and other emergency response from the Fire Department.* I am sure many of you can provide ideas along this line and many other possibilities we may not have considered. Send your ideas to teresa.pecsd@hughes.net and mark it to my attention. Thanks, with your help we will find solutions.

Elmer Tretten

PECSD Board Chairman

Contact US:

Toll Free: 1-877-377-1953

Phone: 530-836-1953

Fax: 530-836-2963

Email: teresa.pecsd@hughes.net

Web site: <http://users.psln.com/pecsd>

Plumas Eureka Preservation Society (PEPS) – Fall 2009

PEP’s tag line, “We Put Plumas In Bloom,” was never more evident than the transformation at the Ponderosa Garden this summer. Five colorful trees were planted and river rock creatively placed to outline the flower beds, and new bark was spread to cover the pathways. Local resident, Tim Evans, was hired to work in the gardens and over the summer, made huge strides in beautifying and maintaining all three gardens in a reliable and meticulous manner. We were very lucky to have Tim and hope he’ll be back next year.



As of this writing, our annual meeting and Soup’s On dinner is one week away. Ticket sales have been brisk and we anticipate a great showing of neighbors and friends who like to support PEPS. One of the most important reasons to hold this meeting is for you, the membership, to hear what’s been done throughout the year and to vote on the new board. The slate of officers to be presented for 2010 are Mary Blaylock, President, Cheryl Shewmake, Vice President, Sharon Munsen, Treasurer, Janet Grijalva, Corresponding Secretary, and Nancy Bartlett, Recording Secretary. Renee Walker will remain on the board as Past President.

Over the past 10 years, we have seen PEPS grow into a solid community organization, one that is enjoyed and appreciated throughout our neighborhood. PEPS maintains and beautifies three community gardens, plants and maintains the flower barrels at the mailbox clusters, conducts Pine Needle Pick Up each spring, installs and maintains the dog waste pick up bag dispensers, and strings lights and organizes the Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Firehouse. We invite anyone to help out with our projects or attend our monthly meetings. If you are interested, just give me a call.



Speaking of stringing lights, on November 28th, come to the Firehouse to see the building and surrounding trees and bushes covered in Christmas lights that will be lit during the Tree Lighting Ceremony and Santa Visit. Plan on coming, sharing in some warm cider or hot chocolate, cookies, and a visit with Santa. It’s a special time of year! The evening begins at 5:00. Bring the kids, visit with your neighbors, and enjoy a few Christmas carols when the trees light up.



Renee Walker
 President, PEPS
 836-4119

ARSENIC – What is it? Why was I notified? How will it affect me?

Arsenic is a naturally occurring semi-metal element in the periodic table. It can be found in rocks, soil, water, air, plants, and animals. You cannot taste or smell arsenic; therefore laboratory testing is the only way to identify whether arsenic is present. Arsenic is released into drinking water supplies from natural deposits in the earth or from agricultural and industrial practices.



Higher levels of arsenic tend to be found more in ground water than in surface waters (i.e. lakes and rivers). Plumas Eureka's drinking water supply comes from a ground water source. As our well pumps put the water into our system they create a "draw down" area around the pump suction pipe. When pumping stops, the ground water will flow into the "draw down" area thus increasing the arsenic concentration for the next pumping cycle. The more water we pump, the higher the possible arsenic levels.

In 2006, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reduced the allowable four quarter annual average arsenic standard from 50 micrograms per Liter (50 parts per billion) to 10 micrograms per Liter (10 parts per billion). Plumas Eureka met the new standard up until the end of 2007. The public notice you received recently explained our situation and what steps we are taking to get our drinking water back into compliance with the federal standard. Public notices are required to be sent every time our arsenic levels exceed the EPA Standard on a quarterly annual average. We have the water tested for arsenic levels every month and analyzing past data with respect to our ground water usage, we anticipate that you will be receiving public notices about every three months until the arsenic levels are reduced below the standard.



In June, an engineering report was submitted the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) that discussed the arsenic issue and provided information on how the arsenic could be removed from our water. CDPH still needs to provide comments on the report. PECSO will continue to sample the surrounding aquifers looking for water with lower concentrations of arsenic.

The public notice you receive states:

This is not an emergency.

If it had been, you would have been notified immediately. However, *some people who drink water containing arsenic in excess of the MCL over many years may experience skin damage or circulatory system problems, and may have an increased risk of getting cancer.*

You do not need to use an alternative water supply (e.g., bottled water).

If you have other health issues concerning the consumption of this water, you may wish to consult your doctor.

There are many studies that have been done that outline the health risks associated with a **lifetime** of drinking arsenic laden water. Children, elderly people, and those with chronic health problems are more sensitive to the arsenic exposure and are at a higher risk of developing severe health problems. The National Resources Defense Council has an on-line report with more information. The report can be found at <http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qarsenic.asp>.

Until Plumas Eureka has the arsenic levels below the federal standard and you are concerned about your families health, you might consider installing a home filtering system that removes arsenic. There are several different systems available that range from under the sink models to whole house systems. Be careful when choosing a system and make sure it has been certified by NSF International to remove arsenic. Call NSF International at 1-800-NSF-MARK or visit their web site at <http://www.nsf.org> to check if the system you are considering is certified or not.

To find out more information regarding arsenic in drinking water, visit the EPA web site

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic/index.html>.

As always, feel free to call the office if you have any questions.

PECSD Disaster Emergency Plan



ARE YOU PRERARED?

PECSD is currently working on community preparation to handle a potential disaster. One phase of this plan is a telephone tree, which utilizes the CSD staff, along with homeowner associations, to provide real-time communications.

With the aid of our CSD staff and our community's homeowner associations we have assembled a telephone tree to be utilized, as needed, in the time of a local disaster. Because of the serious nature of this project we are asking each resident to check our information for completeness and correctness, such as, name, phone number, address, and email. This is to better insure notification and collection of information as deemed necessary in case a disaster occurs. We would also appreciate information of any skills or help you may be able to provide to the community if such is needed. Additionally anyone requiring special aid in an emergency evacuation situation should be identified on our lists. This telephone tree may be used in conjunction with other methods of communication with our residents in a time of emergency.



All are encouraged to verify our current information by contacting your individual homeowner association or our CSD office at 530-836-0532 or email us at teresa.pecsd@hughes.net.

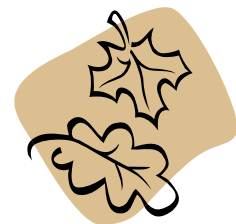


With winter approaching and colder weather on the way it is time to start thinking about winterizing you homes water system. One thing that many people forget about is the hoses that are still attached to the hose bibs. Most hose bibs are designed to drain off the water when they are shut off. If a hose is still



connected to the bib it will not allow the water to drain and creates the potential for the bib to freeze and burst. The other major concern in the winter time is leaving the water on when you leave. Even if you are only planning to be gone short amounts of time, like a week or so, we recommend that you have the C.S.D. shut your water down for you. We provide this service free of charge. Just call us a couple of days in advance so we can turn it off when you are planning to leave, and then turn it back on when you get back.

This will give you peace of mind while you are away and possibly avoid costly repairs and undue stress. Lew.



Well, another summer has come and gone. The golf course is open, but soggy, from our recent rain. Plumas Eureka Estates Homeowners Association (PEEHA) made a drive to increase our paid membership this year, and we succeeded with over 200 paid members. With the contributions that we have made in the past, our budget had been running at a deficit the last two years and we hope that an increase in membership will allow us to keep our future contributions at the historical rate.

We are continuing to try to set an enforceable speed limit on the roads in our area. We had the radar unit back again on Labor Day weekend. Speeding is particularly common on Cottonwood, Lundy and Poplar Valley. Radar data from last years' period showed that 85% of drivers drove at 30 mph or below on Lundy and Cottonwood, so that may be an enforceable speed limit. The bottom line is just slow down. Where have we got to go to drive so fast?

On the other hand, those of us who walk on our streets have a responsibility too. Remember to walk facing traffic and not with your back to it. When there is a group of you walking, don't take up the whole lane when a car is approaching, walk single file and off of the road if possible. And remember to keep your dogs on a leash. If both drivers and walkers behave respectfully and courteously, we shouldn't have any problems.

Our annual Bar-B-Q was successful again this year. We had a good turnout and also added something new. We had several raffle prizes that were very popular and brought in some much needed additional money.

Hope you all have a good winter. See you next year,

Randy McDonald
President, PEEHA

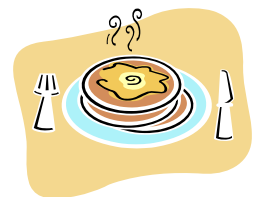


PLUMAS EUREKA CSD AUXILIARY UPDATE

FALL 2009

Our special thanks to all of you who helped to make the Auxiliary's 2009 Membership Drive so successful. Through your participation and generosity, we were able to raise \$5,650, monies that directly benefit our Volunteer Fire Department's efforts. To date we have donated approximately \$3,650 towards the purchase of safety strut and rescue systems, as well as updated shirts and hats for use by the firefighters.

CSD is taking measures to increase the number of electrical outlets in the firehouse in the hopes of avoiding future electrical outages, especially at the Pancake Breakfast events. Our apologies to those of you who had to wait for hot coffee and cooked eggs at our most recent event. A great big thank you to all of the volunteers who so willingly donated their time, effort and patience to provide a special breakfast in spite of the outage problems.



The Firefighters Appreciation Dinner will be held again this year at the Coyote Bar and Grill, on October 24th. This promises to be a fun evening for the firefighters and their guests. It is our way of once again thanking them for all they do for our community.

We look forward to hearing from anyone who is willing to join our Board, and or to offer to help with any of our events. Know that newcomers are always welcome. Thank you.

The Auxiliary Board – Sue Carrera, Muriel Aman, Cheryl Shewmake and Doris Olsen

THIS & THAT FROM TERESA**Billing information for you**

Since reminding all of you about the monthly payment plan, we have almost tripled the amount of monthly payment customers! Just call the office if you would like to consider converting over to the plan for the next six month billing – cost is \$1 per month.

Email & Phone Numbers

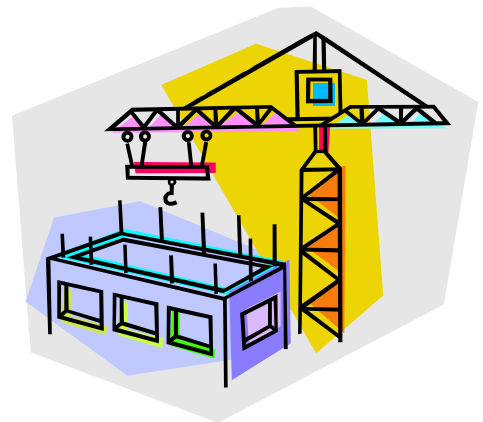
If something happens up here and you are **not** here – then how do we get ahold of you besides snail mail? We are still compiling our email list – not only for the Water and Sewer Departments, but for the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the Fire Department. Take a moment to email me your email address and confirm your phone numbers so that we can keep our records up to date. My email is teresa.pecsd@hughes.net. Also make sure that your computer will recognize emails from us. They would most likely either come from me or from our General Manager Frank Motzkus, his email is frmotzkus@hughes.net.

**'Tis the Season**

The Project Santa box outside my door has already filled up half way with goodies, the Charity will be distributing around the end of the second week in December, so get your donations in early.

Construction Zone

In the spring, E. V. Yelland Construction will be starting the remodel of the CSD Offices. As of this writing, I'm not quite sure where the temporary offices will be, but we will post notices in the District letting everyone know where we will be operating from. I'm really looking forward to a new office after 15 years in this little one.



Have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Teresa



See you next time!!

PLUMAS EUREKA CSD

200 Lundy Lane

Blairsdon, CA 96103

Address Service Requested