

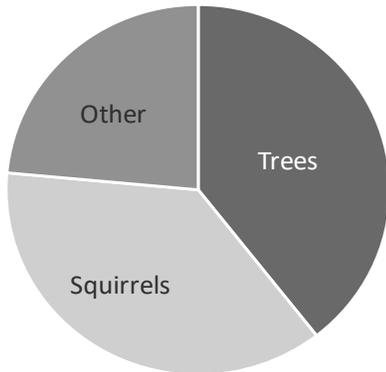
## TREES, SQUIRRELS & OTHER THINGS THAT MADE THE POWER GO OUT FREQUENTLY IN 2017



There are a lot of things that can cause the power to go out and stay out. Some things cause relatively short outages, affecting only a few customers at a time. Some cause long outages affecting lots of customers. Some reoccur frequently, some occur rarely.

In the last few months, we've had two semi-trucks knock down power poles in Jefferson County. Both caused long outages for hundreds of homes. But in our 2017 year end outage report, trucks and automobiles hitting power poles

### CAUSES OF LENGTHY OUTAGES



only accounted for 1% of outages, and barely showed up as a factor in total time of power out.

What caused the most outages, and kept power out longest?

If you guessed wind and rain you're close but not quite on the mark. Wind and weather alone were also at 1% in 2017.

Trees, however, come in as the culprit for both 40% of the number of all outages in 2017, and approximately 40% of all the hours the power was out.

Outage-causing trees usually receive help from wind and rain, but trees can grow into power lines all on their own. The PUD contracts to keep as many trees cleared away from power lines as we can, but with 373 miles of overhead lines, it is hard to keep them all clear. Let us know if trees on your property are touching power lines, or might pose a future concern. See our website for more information on trees & trimming.

Don't call us, however, if you see a random squirrel, though squirrels are nearly tied with trees and represent 37% of the total number of hours out, despite



accounting for only 13% of the number of outages that occurred. When squirrels (and birds, mice, etc we put them all in one category) knock the power out, it stays out. That's because they often get into transformers, substations, and other control gear that affects the largest number of customers at once.

Planned repair and maintenance led to the third greatest number of outages (12%) in 2017, though only accounted for 3% of the total number of hours out. Equipment failure, or unplanned maintenance, occurred less frequently, but led to longer outages, 13% of total.

Squirrels, trees and outages might not be going away anytime soon, but the PUD continues to improve its grid to lessen their impacts on our customers.

## NOXIOUS WEEDS REMOVED FROM TRANSMISSION CORRIDOR

From late March to Mid-May, the PUD teamed up with the Noxious Weed Board and the Washington Conservation Corps to remove invasive species like scotch broom and poison hemlock along the PUD's 12-mile-long power line transmission corridor.

Joost Besijn, WSU Noxious Weed Board Director, managed the project with PUD Asst. General Manager Kevin Streett (pictured right).

"It was perfect timing," said Besijn. "Another year and the

project would have been 2-3 times more difficult and expensive. This was the last year for us to manually pull the invasive scotch broom, and get to it before it was able to lay down seeds."

Besijn noted that native plants like snowberries, salal, native roses and sword ferns already exist in the corridor and will be helped by the removal of competing invasives. Under ideal conditions, low growing shrubby native plants like



these can provide a healthy low maintenance understory for the transmission corridor as they grow in, reducing future weed pressure and regular maintenance costs. A win-win for the PUD.

## CALENDAR

**June 5th, 5pm**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Jefferson Transit Board Room

**June 11, 2pm**  
Citizen's Advisory Board  
PUD 4 Corners Meeting Room

**June 19th, 5pm**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Jefferson Transit Board Room

**July 3rd, 5pm**  
Regular Board Meeting  
Jefferson Transit Board Room

*Regular board meetings take place at 5pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. Agendas & minutes available on our website.*

# WAYNE KING TO RETIRE AT END OF 2018 TERM

On Friday May 18, after much deliberation, longtime District 3 Commissioner Wayne King announced he would not be running again.

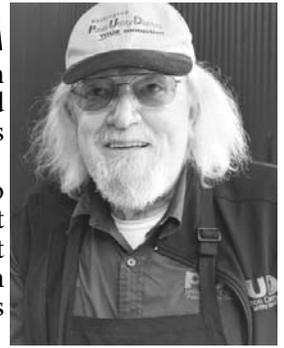
King plans to finish out his third and final term, remaining on the board of the PUD through Decemeber. He was first elected to the PUD in 2000.

During his nearly eighteen years with the PUD, King was an instrumental part of much expansion and change. The PUD added multiple new water systems, additional aquifers, dozens of employees, broadband, and electric service while King was commissioner.

King stated that he never

expected to be in office for such a long time, but is very proud of all the work the PUD and its staff have accomplished.

Two candidates have filed to fill King's nonpartisan District 3 seat: Dan Toepper of Port Ludlow and Tom Brotheron of Quilcene. Election day is November 6.



# SUMMER GARDEN WATER CONSERVATION TIPS & KITS

Despite our soggy reputation nationally, Western Washington is pretty dry in the summertime. Only a handful of inches of rain fall between June and September, which leaves a lot of local lawns and gardens thirsty.

Some plants need up to an inch or more of water a week all summer long; adding up when you're paying for water. The PUD has some advice for those looking to keep their gardens green without draining their



pocket book or our local aquifers.

For those with more established gardens or a number of perennial plants, consider investing in drip tape and automatic timers. Drip tape delivers water directly to the base of the plant and no where else, and timers allow you to water at night or in the twilight hours when there's less evaporation and you're still in bed.

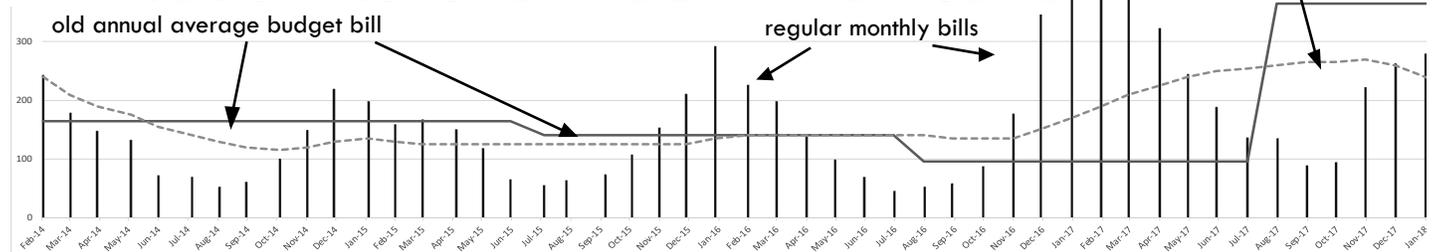
If you're on a tighter budget, drop the hose, remove the sprinkler, and grab the old watering can. A good

watering will give individual plants a deep drink without much waste, and it will keep you fit in the process.

With either method, consider using a soil probe to test adequate moisture. Prevent water waste by keeping your hoses and spigots in good working order by repairing any leaks or holes. Pipe thread tape and hose washers and splice kits will do the trick.

Need more help? Come pick up a **free garden water conservation kit** at Customer Service starting **June 15th**.

# NEW BUDGET BILLING PROGRAM OPTIONS



Depending on the season, the amount due on your utility bill can vary widely.

The PUD's Budget Billing program provides customers with more predictability. That's because Budget Billing allows you to pay the average bill calculated over twelve months.

Instead of a residential customer seeing potential swings from \$92 in the summer to \$212 in the winter, a Budget Billing customer might pay \$144 per month all year long. Consider signing up for auto-pay for an even more

convenient bill-paying option.

At the end of every twelve month cycle the Budget Bill is re-averaged to account for any changes in annual consumption and rates. Re-averaging typically takes place in July and the updated average shows up on the bill you receive in August.

For customers whose bills grew considerably during a twelve month cycle, or who carry a large balance, the annual re-averaging can lead to a large change between their July & Aug. bills.

To help these customers, the PUD is introducing a new rolling average option for Budget Billing users. The rolling average is calculated from the twelve months preceding each month's bill. Each bill will be slightly different, but the changes will be small and provide the least surprises. See chart above.

Any customer can sign up for either budget billing program at any time by contacting customer service at (360) 385-5800 or by coming into our office Monday - Friday, 9am to 5pm.



Tom Brooke  
Water Department

# PUD HIRES 2 NEW METER READERS

Chimacum resident Tom Brooke was hired as a water meter reader in March. Brooke brings 13 years of experience in utilities maintenance and repair, and worked at Ron Hemley Septic Installations before joining the PUD.

Brooke has lived in Jefferson County on and off since he was a child, but full-time since 2012. He is married and has three children at Chimacum Middle School. He likes to tinker with old cars and tractors in his off hours. He also raises pigs.

Matt Rivera comes to Jefferson County most recently from Corpus Christi, Texas, where he worked as an apprentice lineman at Nueces Electric Cooperative. Rivera graduated from Quilcene High School and jumped at the chance to come back to the northwest when the meter reader position opened at the PUD.

"It was my dream to work at the Jefferson PUD. I just love this area," said Rivera, who is married with two young children. One will start at Chimacum in the fall.



Matt Rivera  
Electric Department