

WATERWORKS

A Quarterly Newsletter of Hallsdale-Powell Utility District

Fall 2008

CEO REPORT



Greetings...and welcome to another edition of WaterWorks.

There have been some changes at Hallsdale-Powell. Our longtime President and CEO Marvin Hammond has stepped aside. He's still active with the utility but is now serving as President Emeritus.

I was fortunate enough to be chosen by the Board of Commissioners as the new President and CEO. I may be new to the job, but I am far from new with HPUD. I've been with the utility since 2000, most recently serving as Executive Vice President and COO. I'll carry those duties with me, so we haven't added any staff.

I feel as if I have prepared well for an important job like this. I'm a University of Tennessee graduate in Civil Engineering and a state licensed Professional Engineer, a graduate of the American Water Works Association's Executive Development Program and the Water Environment Federation's Management Development Program. In addition, I am a certified Water Distribution Operator and Wastewater Collection System Operator.

My goal is to run this utility as efficiently as possible. We want to be sure you have all the pure water you want and need, dependable wastewater services, to do no damage to the environment and to do all we can to keep costs down. All of us at Hallsdale-Powell will work hard to try and meet those goals.

You may have noticed one other change. Our newsletter has a new look. We've shortened it to one page and we'll try and make sure everything we include is information you can use. We'd love to hear what you think, so please let us know.

Darren Cardwell

Darren Cardwell
HPUD President/CEO

Don't Flush This

Pharmaceutical and Personal Care Products (PPCS) include prescription and over-the-counter drugs, fragrances, cosmetics, sun-screen agents, nutritional supplements and herbs. In the US, 80% of waterways are contaminated with medications and other PPCS.

These products can enter the environment in two ways. Unmetabolized medicines and supplements are excreted by the person using the medication, or unused or unwanted drugs are improperly disposed of in the trash or toilet. Wastewater treatment plants and septic systems are not equipped to remove these compounds, leaving the possibility of river and groundwater contamination.

Please use these practical guidelines when disposing of prescription and over-the-counter medicines:

1. Keep the medicines in the original container – this will help identify the contents if they are accidentally ingested.
2. Mark out your name and prescription number for safety.
3. For pills: add water or soda to start dissolving them. For liquids: add something inedible like cat litter, dirt or cayenne pepper.
4. Close the lid and secure with duct or packing tape.
5. Place the bottle(s) inside a non see-through container like a coffee can or plastic laundry bottle.
6. Tape the container closed.
7. Hide the container in the trash. Do not put in the recycle bin.

Other Items You Should Not Flush:

Band-aids and bandage wrappers	Cleaning wipes
Cotton balls, swabs & pads	Facial wipes
Dental floss & teeth whitening strips	Hair
Feminine products	Kitty litter
Disposable diapers	Nursing pads
Baby wipes	



Summer Accolades

HPUD was awarded the NACWA Gold Peak Performance Award for the Beaver Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant and Raccoon Valley WWTP. The awards were given this summer at an awards banquet in Anchorage, AK for outstanding performance during the 2007 calendar year at both plants. To qualify for the Gold award, you must have zero violations in a calendar year of the NPDES permit provisions, while also showing outstanding recordkeeping and overall operation/maintenance of the facility.

HPUD was also awarded the 2008 KY/TN Water Environment Association Operational Excellence Award for Beaver Creek WWTP. This association represents the combined KY/TN areas and all utilities in them. To qualify for the award, you must have no violations during the calendar year and also have excellence in operations and maintenance.

These awards are a testament to the continued success at HPUD wastewater plants and HPUD leadership.

OUR SCHOOLS: Powell Elementary

Each issue we'll highlight a different school in the HPUD area



The Accelerated Reading program is in full swing at Powell Elementary School. Students are working hard to reach their personal reading goals. The Accelerated Reading program is used to improve students' reading skills. Students read books chosen from the PES library and then take A.R. quizzes on them. Students earn points for passing A.R. quizzes. Students who reach their personal goal are rewarded with a trip to the A.R. store. Parent volunteers are always welcome to help with the A.R. program. If you would like to volunteer, please visit the PES website at www.powelles.knoxschools.org and click on the "Encore" link for more information or call 938-2048.

In 2006, Powell Elementary established a computer lab in memory of Carole McLemore. Mrs. McLemore was a fifth grade teacher and a strong proponent of technology in the classroom. The computer lab was entitled the Mac Lab as a tribute to her memory. The Mac Lab can accommodate

24 students using new MacBook laptops to support the curriculum. Students utilize the lab to conduct research and enhance their learning through educational games and activities. An ActivBoard is also used in the lab to facilitate hands on learning. Students are able to get immediate feedback on answers to questions through the use of interactive flipcharts and the Activboard. ActiVotes is a new program that we are working toward purchasing for the computer lab. This program works by asking students to answer multiple choice questions with the click of a button. By capturing student response when they are questioned can be a powerful tool in influencing the direction of a lesson or the planning of future lessons. The students and staff are very excited about our lab and the continued improvements being made within the lab.

ELECTRICITY & WATER

As all of you probably know TVA has just raised its rates and that higher cost has been passed along by electric utilities.

As you can imagine, it takes a lot of power to pump water and wastewater through 560 miles of pipe, so the rate hike has hit HPUD, just as it has affected you. In fact, our cost for electricity is going up by about \$10,000 a month.

Fortunately, we anticipated energy costs would rise and built it into our budget so there will be no impact on your water bill.

Local Business Spotlight

St. Mary's North



Few developments have meant more to the future of the Hallsdale-Powell service area in the past fifty years than the construction of St. Mary's North, which opened last summer.

Now people from north Knox and surrounding counties have access to total medical care without driving far or leaving the area. It not only means a lot to the area right now, it's a big factor in our future growth.

"St. Mary's Medical Center North is designed to promote patient safety and family involvement within a healing environment," says Debra London, president and CEO of Mercy Health Partners. "Studies have shown that the hospital environment has an important impact on outcomes of care."

"In addition to all private patient rooms with social spaces for family, the medical center has decentralized nursing stations, special materials to reduce noise, and technologically advanced information and communications systems," London says.

Hallsdale-Powell was a partner in bringing the hospital to the area; running new supply lines to make sure the hospital would have all the water and wastewater service it needed.

"It's an investment in our future," said HPUD President/CEO Darren Cardwell. "It's not only important to the region, it can also have a big impact on future economic development and better jobs for our children and grandchildren."

St. Mary's North is more than just a hospital. The campus is also home to an emergency room, a cancer center, an imaging center, a women's center, a medical office building and a health and fitness center.

As the hospital completes its first full year of operation, it has already proven to be a great asset to the region, and to Mercy Health Partners, of which St. Mary's North is a member.