

HPUD goes 'beyond compliance'

Hallsdale-Powell Utility District has had as rough a year as have its customers. The district is seeing the bills come due for enterprise on several fronts. For the first time in 50 years, HPUD didn't host a Thanksgiving dinner for staff.

The first payment (\$201,590) for the new headquarters was paid this month. More will follow.

HPUD brought its upgraded sewage treatment plant on line on Dec. 3. The Powell facility operates with membrane filters which will help keep

Beaver Creek clean. HPUD hasn't had a violation for 42 months. It doesn't take a long memory to recall when violations were frequent, correlating roughly with heavy rainfall. The lack of violations comes from repairs to sewer lines to keep out surface water.

HPUD built a new water treatment plant on Norris

Sandra Clark



Lake and upgraded the plant at Melton Hill. The district is poised to sell water to its neighbors ... if it ever stops raining. And it will. New water mains made possible the commercial expansion on Emory Road at I-75 including the new St. Mary's North. Water leaks are less frequent.

Somebody asked the other day why the Shopper is not jumping on HPUD for its rates - some of the highest around. That's hardly fair since the district's enterprise has positioned us for future growth and long-term rate stability. It just hurts to write the monthly check.

Last week, Joy Phillips, director of environmental services, and Sarah Berry, education outreach coordinator, gave presentations to the HPUD board. Phillips said her previous experience

was with utilities that asked her to keep them in compliance with state and federal regulations. Hallsdale-Powell is the first to challenge her to go beyond compliance, she said.

Phillips is spearheading work on the outdoor classroom/environmental center at Brickey-McCloud School. It should be finished before school is out, built in part with stimulus funds (40 percent principal forgiveness).

Berry promotes "water on wheels," a program for elementary-aged kids. Board member Sandy Liford praised the presentation to her third grade class at Powell Elementary.

Marvin Hammond talked about the outdoor classroom at Halls High School. Hammond, who was installed this month as 2010 president of the Halls Business and Professional Association, has been the driving force for HPUD plant expansions and environmental initiatives.

"Beyond compliance" is a watchword for Hammond.

Notes

■ HPUD set just 14 wa-

ter meters and inspected 11 sewer connections in November.

■ HPUD awarded three contracts, based on stimulus funding: \$393,960 to Morgan Contracting for Willow Fork Interceptor improvements; \$932,750 to Merkel Brothers Construction for North Fork Interceptor improvements; and \$2,785,832 to Insituform Technologies Inc. for Phase 2 of the Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation program.

■ Payouts in December included: \$1.13 million to 3D Enterprises for Beaver Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant; \$58,190 to Mike Smith Pump Service for the Schaad Road pump station replacement; \$577,927 to Reynolds Inliner Inc. for sanitary sewer rehab Phase I; \$30,877 to Merkel Brothers for Norris Freeway line improvements; and \$4,983 to Design and Construction Services Inc. for a sewer transmission main from Fairview Road to Maloneyville Road.

■ The next board meeting will be 1:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 11.