

# Water Ways



CHELAN COUNTY

## Clean, reliable water now available in Monitor

Extending water to Monitor and completing plans for using water efficiently were among the major achievements of Chelan County PUD's water department in 2008.

Maintenance and expansion projects are planned for 2009.

Ron Slabaugh, water resources manager, outlined these accomplishments for the past year:

- Clean, reliable drinking water was extended to Monitor, west of Wenatchee. The project included laying 41,000 feet of new pipe to carry water from the existing PUD system in lower Sunnyslope and crossing the Wenatchee River. Construction began in January and was completed in October. The system can serve up to 280 customers. Efforts to improve the drinking water supply for Monitor dated back to the early 1990s.
- Water use efficiency plans were adopted for the Ollala Canyon, Dryden, Chelan Ridge and Chelan Falls water systems. The plans outline the way the PUD will meet state requirements to collect information, forecast demand, evaluate and reduce leaks, review rate structures that encourage water use efficiency, and evaluate or implement water conservation measures. The plans are available on the PUD Web site at [www.chelanpud.org](http://www.chelanpud.org).
- Several aging water lines in west and north Wenatchee and lower Sunnyslope were upgraded to improve water quality, and improvements made to Hawley Street and Skyline Drive pump stations for improved capacity and reliability.

### These projects are scheduled for 2009:

- Replacing aging steel lines to improve reliability, capacity and water quality in Sunnyslope, including the Highway 2 crossing between Easy Street and Lower Sunnyslope Road, and in the Chatham Hill and west Wenatchee areas.
- Connecting the Monitor and Sleepy Hollow systems for improved capacity and reliability.
- Installing water main along Mission Street in South Wenatchee for improved fire flow.



*Major projects finished in 2008 included extending water to Monitor west of Wenatchee. One of the project's challenges was installing pipe across the Wenatchee River via the Monitor Bridge.*

- Upgrading two pump stations and constructing a new 150,000-gallon drinking water reservoir for Squilchuck area customers south of Wenatchee.

## Food for thought: Your garden can feed you

Learn about opportunities to grow, harvest and preserve your own fruits and vegetables in a Master Gardeners presentation Saturday, Feb. 7, from 10 a.m. to noon in the Chelan County PUD Auditorium.

Jennifer Marquis, coordinator for WSU Master Gardeners of Chelan County, said the group plans a series of classes on gardening this spring and summer. People interested in learning specific aspects of gardening should attend the Feb. 7 meeting to indicate their areas of interest. Participants will be contacted once a class schedule is developed.

*Continued on reverse*

Winter 2009

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Growing your own fruits and vegetables can improve your health, help the environment, save money and allow consumers to be more self-sufficient.



“Nothing provides a better sense of self-sufficiency than stepping into your backyard or onto your patio to pick fresh veggies to feed your family dinner,” Marquis said.

Master Gardeners emphasize growing food in an environmentally friendly way that conserves water and protects water quality.

Master Gardeners will start a catalog and seed exchange at the Feb. 7 meeting. Participants should bring catalogs and seeds they’d like to share or swap with others.

For more information, send an e-mail to [jgmarquis@wsu.edu](mailto:jgmarquis@wsu.edu) or phone 667-6540.

being evaluated. The agency has embarked on rulemaking to define permit requirements. Backyard rain barrels most likely will be exempt, but bigger collection systems will require Ecology permits.

The Web site notes that rainwater is legally considered a water resource of the state, and the Department of Ecology is responsible for managing the state’s water. Regulating the use of small amounts of rainwater was probably not the intention of state statutes when initially drafted but “unfortunately, clarifying legislation on this matter was unsuccessful in the 2008 Legislature as well as the previous six legislative sessions.”

Information on the state’s efforts is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wr/hq/rwh.html>.

## Rain, rain, don’t go away

Our last issue included a brief article about Tucson, Ariz., becoming the first city in the country to require developers of commercial property to harvest rainwater for landscaping. A reader questioned whether harvesting rainwater is legal in Washington.

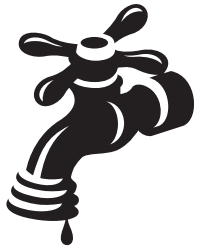


The answer is “maybe.”

According to the Department of Ecology Web site, the agency has not required permits for systems using “de minimus,” or negligible, amounts of rainwater, such as residential rain barrels or ornamental ponds that store a few hundred gallons. But just what constitutes “de minimus” is now

## Toilet uses sink water to save on flushes

The latest development in water-conserving toilets incorporates a sink. An article in the January/February issue of Home Energy magazine features the Profile Smart toilet by Caroma. The Profile Smart is a high efficiency dual flush toilet with integrated sink averaging only 0.9 gallons per flush. It directs fresh water through the faucet for hand washing. The water then drains from the sink into the tank for the next flush. The sink-and-toilet combo claims a 70 percent savings over a toilet and separate hand basin. The Profile Smart won a Popular Mechanics magazine Breakthrough Product Award in 2008. It has been released for sale in Australia and is supposed to be released in North America this year.



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