

HAPPY

The Columbia Valley Water District would like to wish everyone a happy New Year.

As we begin 2013, we look forward to meeting more of you within the district. Last year began with two new commissioners, Victoria Anderson and me, Shane Janitscheck. Looking back it seems to have been a very tumultuous beginning with challenges of staffing the office and gaining entrance to the facilities, but things seemed to have fallen right into place. Fortunately for the district we were able to bring Beth Morgan back in as District Office Manager. As many of you know that was an excellent choice, her skills as manager and in customer service are beyond question. I, myself, would like to thank her very much for the work she's done in 2012 and look forward to working with her for the rest of my term. I also would like to thank Victoria Anderson for her detailed work that has helped us get through the year. Victoria is becoming an excellent commissioner who is dedicated to the district. Richard Banel has been very helpful in getting us up to date on past district business and projects.

As many of you may have noticed our district area is once again starting to grow. There are some new houses going up, people are working on their homes and yards and the area is starting to look better. We have a nice place to live here and part of that is because of improvements that have happened over the last couple years. One of those things is the new resource center on the Kendall Highway which is open and serving the community, another is the streetlights which have helped make a safer environment by reducing traffic problems and crime in the area. We need to give a big thanks to former Commissioner Norma Otto for setting that in motion. The streetlights are an ongoing project and as areas that are in need of lighting are recognized, they will be addressed.

As your commissioners, we have several projects that we hope to complete this year and others we hope to start. The Santa Fe Trail pressure problem will be addressed this year along with other projects which include finding leaks and replacing meters. By the end of this year, we should have accurate figures on the District's water losses. Additionally, for the first time in a very long time, due to your commissioners working hard at staying within budget, the 2012 budget is balanced. Being responsible for your funds, the Commissioners have set up the 2013 budget to see that the District has the funds for maintenance and projects that are important to keep your water coming to you each and every day while cutting spending in unnecessary areas.

The Board of Commissioners is also looking into solar power to run the office. Part of that involves having the Community Energy Challenge inspect the building for efficiencies. There are many good incentives in this program and it's not only for businesses. The Community Energy Challenge can be contacted to come out and inspect your home, check your insulation, your windows, heating and hot water tank to make your home more efficient and save you money. If you're interested, their phone number is 676-6099ext 0, ask for Wendy.

Things to remember for the upcoming year are septic tank maintenance. If it's been a while since your septic tank has been pumped you may want to have it done. Also, I would like to ask everyone to be very careful about oil spills and other fluids leaking from vehicles so that we can keep contaminants out of our groundwater.

Once again happy New Year and I would like to ask all of you to let me know if you have any suggestions or comments that concern the district. You can e-mail me at CVWD_Position2@ewsd19.com. I will try to respond to all e-mails within a couple of days of receiving them.

Thank you,
Commissioner Shane Janitscheck