



The Islander

JANUARY 2010

20818 Island Parkway East, Lake Tapps, WA 98391

Next Board of Trustees Meeting

**January 28th
7:00 pm**

In the Clubroom

Tapps Island Phone Numbers



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Restaurant: 862-6641

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Cell Phone: 370-0658

**Mighty Islanders Website:
www.mightyislanders.org**

Lk. Tapps Info: 891-5460

Pothole Hotline: 591-7702

**News & Advertisements you'd like
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It's official! Sale of lake is final

The sale of Lake Tapps to the Cascade Water Alliance is complete. Dec. 18th marked the culmination of an arduous journey for lake homeowners, who have been wrestling with the fate of the lake since Puget Sound Energy, its former owner, announced some 10 years ago that it might abandon the Lake Tapps reservoir as a power-generating source.

Cascade Water Alliance first came on the scene in 2004, displaying its interest in turning Lake Tapps into a drinking water source for its 370,000 residential and 22,000 business clients. Some of the cities that Cascade represents are Issaquah, Bellevue, Kirkland, Redmond and Tukwila.

Before Cascade could ink its purchase agreement, a multitude of separate entities needed to be satisfied, including the seven Lake Tapps-area homeowners' associations, two Indian tribes, the State Department of Ecology and other entities.

The requirements Cascade needed to satisfy with the homeowners' associations (called the Lake Tapps Community Council) included specific fill dates each year and a commitment to maintain a full lake through the recreation season, notification of any changes, and the promise to participate in ongoing problem-solving.

Specifically, Cascade will maintain a level, for the next 30 years, between 542.2 feet and 543.7 feet during the "annual recreational period," which initially is April 15-Sept. 15. The autumn period could extend into October in most years of the agreement, depending upon yearly rainfall and snow pack.

Local volunteers who helped craft the plan felt that an 18-inch variance in summer water levels was acceptable and would not hinder recreational activities.

The fact that recreational water levels could even be considered a priority was a feat in itself. Cascade, and earlier, PSE, was mired in maintaining high river flows required by the Indian tribes and the Dept. of Fisheries because of the endangered Chinook salmon. Local residents often wondered if recreational boating levels in the lake could even be a factor in the ultimate outcome.

But because of perseverance on the parts of many, such as past Tapps Island general managers and volunteers like Island resident Ralph Mason, recreational levels became a priority. Mr. Mason credits Cascade's new CEO, Chuck Clarke, with really stepping forward and seeing to residents' needs.

"He would come down here to the Clubhouse and sit through long meetings with us and we thrashed through how to keep the lake full," Mr. Mason said adding that many of these meeting occurred before Clarke was actually on the Cascade payroll.

Turning Lake Tapps into a potable drinking water supply was just one of as many as 32 original ideas proposed for the

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Deadline for Newsletter Ads - 25th / each mo.

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lake after PSE, in 1999, claimed it could no longer afford to operate the reservoir for power-making purposes.

Several groups of volunteers and a task force with broad local, state and federal representation worked to find a solution that would assure the future of Lake Tapps. The Lake Tapps Community Council ultimately emerged to represent the community. It is comprised of representatives of the seven homeowner associations on the lake and two at-large members.

In spite of many personal agendas, the volunteers, local politicians and others always kept the heart of the matter in mind, and that was to preserve the lake, Mr. Mason noted.

“This was a winner,” he added. “Everyone pulled together.”

Water will not be withdrawn from Lake Tapps until about 2025 or later. First, Cascade must obtain its final

water rights from the State Department of Ecology that will allow the utility to store water in Lake Tapps, divert water from the White River into the lake, and then withdraw water, as much as 64 million gallon a day, for municipal use.

It will then acquire the necessary property and land rights to construct pipelines to transport the water to its treatment facilities and ultimately to the customers it serves.

Redesign and reconstruction of the Buckley diversion dam, which serves the fish trap-and-haul system for Mud Mountain Dam, and which diverts water from the White River into the lake by the Army Corps of Engineers, will begin in 2012.

A celebration for those involved in the work will be held Feb. 5 at the former PSE power plant along East Valley Highway. The time will be announced later.

W.O.W. Yard of the Month Winner for December

This Christmastime at 3622 197th Ave. CT. E., the home of the Highlands beckons Santa to “Stop Here” however, Santa is not the only one stopping here! Cars stop with windows down in the cold crisp air to enjoy the incredible lights and music display at the home of Ryan, Mandi and Alec Highland.

The Highlands were voted as December’s W.O.W. Yard of the Month winner and WOW is right, their home was an anticipated attraction of the community. Ryan is in charge of putting up the Christmas light display in his yard. He started the week before Thanksgiving, enduring the friendly taunts of his neighbors that now they must keep up with the “Griswold’s”. He worked four days, 40 hours of work, to get the lights ready for the enjoyment of all. This year the Highlands traded in all their lights from last year for LED lights to save on energy, and if it must be known, so that they could string more lights for a display that was bigger than last years without shorting out the circuits.

The Highlands moved to the Island two years ago from the other side of the lake to be closer to her family and to be part of this wonderful community and the desirable Dieringer School District where Alec attends Lake Tapps Elementary.

Ryan and Mandi grew up in the Tukwila area.

Ryan and Mandi are making big summer plans for improvement to their yard. They would like to replace their deck and work on their backyard for their “get-a-way” space. Ryan and Alec enjoy hours of play in the yard. It doesn’t matter if it’s soccer or basketball, they just enjoy being outside. Their yard is the place to be.

We Islanders are happy that the Highlands have chosen to be part of our wonderful community and delight us with their fun family, beautiful home, lush yard and spectacular lights!

Congratulations to the Highlands for winning W.O.W. Yard of the Month for December. They will display the “coveted” yard of the month planter in their yard for the month of January until it moves on to the next winning recipient. They also receive a \$25 gift card to the restaurant.

Please participate in the W.O.W. (walk on Wednesdays) Yard of the Month contest by casting your vote for the yard that wow’s you the most. The ballot box is located in the restaurant or you may e-mail your vote to Sandy Shuman at shuboxsandy@hotmail.com by the end of the month.

Yard of the Month Ballot

I vote for _____

Address of home to receive your vote

Submitted by, _____ Date _____