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**Happy New Year from Kirkwood Meadows PUD!**

**January 2024  
Featured Articles**

**Snow Removal**

**Kirkwood – “Stories from the First Fifty Years” Thank You!**

**Future of KVFD Community Forum**

**Cal Recycle – On Packaging Material**

**Propane Services Update and Annual Propane Public Awareness**

**What is the Board doing now?**

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**Snow Removal is Up And Running Strong**

McCleen Trackless


**A tractor in the snow

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Our snow removal team is working hard to provide the best possible service this winter. With the addition of a new MacLean Trackless snow blower and a mid-size RPM Blower along with our snow removal team fully staffed we are looking strong this season. As seasoned Kirkwood residents know, Kirkwood can receive a wide variety and type of snow and wind. The snow removal team carefully watches the weather and schedule our 6 operators based on the best available forecasts. While there are no “hard and fast” rules for what necessitates snow removal, our seasoned operators make reasoned judgments each day about when, what, and where snow removal will occur. Our first priority is usually roads, then parking pads and driveways. Depending on the storms, it may take multiple days to catch up, but rest assured we will do our best!

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER - Snow removal residency notices must be submitted at least 24-hour’s in advance or they will not be effective until the following day. To be included on the Residency List, log into [www.kmpud.com](http://www.kmpud.com), choose My Account, then Manage Snow Removal.

This will place your driveway on the District’s Residency List which is *generated every day and distributed to operators at the beginning of their shift*. To be included on the Residency List the next time you or your guests plan to be at your Kirkwood home, *follow these instructions*:

**1. Log into your account on www.kmpud.com.  
2. Click My Account on the right side of the screen.  
3. At the bottom of the menu that appears, click Manage Snow Removal.  
4. Under Residency Notification set your arrival and departure dates in the drop-down menus and enter customer notes if needed.  
5. Click Set Notification.**

Also, we understand plans change, but please cancel your residency if they do.

**Sales from the sold out “Kirkwood Stories from the First Fifty Years” book raised over $17,000 for the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department**

A group of people on a snowy mountain

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We are pleased to announce the book sales raised over $17,000 for the volunteer fire department. Thank you for your purchases and continued support.

This success could not have happened without the generous support of Vail Resorts, who donated $17,000 towards this project, and the support of the KVFD 501c3 Board.

Also, a special thank you to Anh Oppenheimer, Geoff & Melene Smith, Sandy Sloan, and Eric Richert who created this special book. They spent countless hours interviewing people, gathering stories, photographs, promoting, and selling the book.

**The Future of KVFD Community Forum**

The Fire and Emergency Medical Services Temporary Advisory Committee hosted a Community Forum on December 28th, from 3:45 – 5:30 pm, to discuss the future of the Kirkwood Volunteer Fire Department (KVFD). The event was held in-person at the Red Cliff’s Club Room and broadcast over Zoom. There were approximately 100 people that attended in-person and 40 people on Zoom. The meeting was recorded and is available on the [**KMPUD website**](https://www.kmpud.com/community-forum-the-future-of-kvfd/) along with PowerPoint presentation.

At the Community Forum, Committee members presented information and answered questions related to KVFD current operations and potential future financing. We thank everyone who attended or participated.

Next the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Temporary Advisory Committee will be meeting to discuss conducting a community survey to formalize and quantify community feedback to help the committee provide a recommendation to the KMPUD Board.

**Propane Services Update and Annual Propane Public Awareness Message**

**Public Awareness Message**

**Propane Gas Systems**

1. PURPOSE AND RELIABILITY OF THE PROPANE PIPELINE

The propane pipeline system in Kirkwood is owned, operated, and maintained by the Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District (District). The pipeline system is designed to distribute propane to the customers, which is commonly used for heating and cooking. The District’s pipeline system runs underground from a bulk distribution plant on Loop Road and extends to connected properties.

The District’s responsibility is limited to its transmission pipelines and facilities. The property owner is responsible for maintenance and protection of any and all pipelines or facilities located on the retail service customer’s property. Meters are maintained by the District, while meter protection is the responsibility of the property owner.

2. OVERVIEW OF THE HAZARDS OF THE PIPELINE AND PREVENTION MEASURES USED

Propane can leak from pipeline facilities damaged due to corrosion, outside force, natural events, or equipment failure, etc. Because propane is a flammable commodity, propane leaks, under certain circumstances, have the potential to cause harm.

The District’s propane system is leak-surveyed every five years. All hazardous leaks are repaired. All main valves are inspected annually to ensure they are operable. The propane system is patrolled on a routine basis to ensure that hazardous conditions such as atmospheric corrosion, improper care of discontinued services and exterior customer lines, inadequate support of meters and pipeline components, etc. are noted and corrected. Potentially hazardous conditions on customer-owned lines and equipment are referred to the property owners for correction, when discovered. There is a cathodic protection system that protects the steel pipe in the system from corroding, and this system is also monitored regularly to ensure its effectiveness. District-owned steel pipe is limited to the liquid lines at the bulk distribution plant on Loop Road.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT DAMAGE PREVENTION

The propane pipeline system is susceptible to damage due to outside forces such as those caused by excavation, vehicular traffic, or excessive loads placed on meter assemblies. The main source of excessive loads on meters in the Kirkwood Community is snow and ice. Snow and ice buildup on customer-owned above ground equipment, such as risers, pipes, regulators, and valves can cause excessive loads on these components which can lead to dangerous leaks or equipment failures. Please take measures to protect your propane service and keep the meter, meter enclosure, and all associated equipment clear of snow and ice at all times. It is important to ensure that snow is removed regularly from roofs or decks above the propane service to avoid the potential for the roof or deck to collapse and damage propane equipment.

The greatest risk to underground propane pipelines is damage caused during excavation. Even a minor impact with the pipeline could cause a dent or damage to its coating, resulting in a leak. **Notify the District and other utilities before you dig by calling USA NORTH at 811/1-800-227-2600.**

In addition, restricted access to main valves and meter set assemblies could result in severe consequences in the event of an emergency. Do not park vehicles near propane meters or pipelines that are not protected by barriers. Do not remove meter supports or place heavy items on top of meter set assemblies. Do not allow snow and ice to build up on or around meter set assemblies or meter sheds.

Please notify the District of propane meters that are vulnerable to vehicular damage or in need of support. Residents should also notify the District of any other potential hazards they notice.

4. HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND RESPOND TO A LEAK

Odor: Propane is colorless, odorless, tasteless, and non-toxic. An additive (Mercaptan) in the propane gives it a distinctive odor (similar to rotting eggs or sulfur).

Vegetation: Propane leaking from an underground pipeline can destroy vegetation by starving the roots of air and water. An unusual dry patch of vegetation, within an otherwise green area, could indicate a below ground propane leak.

Sound: A blowing or hissing sound could indicate the presence of a propane leak.

Fungus-like growth: Propane leaks in valve boxes, manholes, etc. may develop a fungus-like growth that is white in color.

In the event of a suspected leak, do not light items such as matches or cigarettes, or use any device that may generate a spark such as electrical switches, telephones (cell and land line phones), doorbells, automobiles, or other engines, etc. Extinguish all flames, evacuate the building to a safe distance, and turn off propane if feasible. To report a propane leak, **call 209-258-4444, or after hours 209-296-8668** and inform appropriate qualified personnel of the situation and the location of the leak. Do not make phone calls from the area where the propane leak is present.

5. HOW TO GET ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional information, contact the District at 209-258-4444.

**A Note from Cal Recycle**

A person looking at a bag full of plastic bags

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* Plastics #1-7
* Paper
* Cardboard

Aluminum

Glass

Layered packaging that combines multiple materials into difficult-to-recycle items.

Recycling 75% of disposed packaging would reduce climate pollution equal to removing 3.2 million cars from the road every year, according to Cal Recycle estimates. You can learn more about sustainable and rigid packaging [here](https://calrecycle.ca.gov/packaging/).

**What is the Board working on?**

The tail end of 2023 was quite busy, with the Board approving switching banking vendors from BMO to 5 Star Bank, seating of a newly elected (or re-elected) Board members, and electing new officers for the next 2 years. Of particular note was the public hearing and approval to change the way the District purchases power from the “day ahead market” to “hedge pricing” which locks in a majority of the purchased power in an effort to avoid the huge price spikes seen last year. The net result is a $0.02/kWh increase in usage rates, effective January 1, 2024. At the January Board meeting, the Board approved the annual audit.

Coming up over the next few months, the Board will consider creating an Energy Efficiency Rebate program, creating an electric-rate low-income program, and will begin the budgeting process for next fiscal year. As always, the Board encourages the public to attend and participate in the Board meetings.

Kirkwood Meadows Public Utility District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.