

Operations Assistant Logged Many Travel Miles

Sharon Blodgett joined Klickitat PUD on June 21 as the new operations support assistant. She assists the Operations Department with numerous tasks, but primarily provides support to the staff that runs the eight water systems and six wastewater systems managed and operated by KPUD.

Sharon also provides support to electrical crews. Customers might hear her voice if they happen to call during a power outage.

Sharon and her husband, Rick, have owned property in Goldendale for about 10 years, but made the move to be full-time residents about a year ago.

She comes to KPUD with more than 16 years of experience at Tillamook Country Smoker. During that time, she learned everything from receptionist, accounts receivable, accounts payable, collections, to being assistant to the president and president of sales. Most recently she was the sales assistant to the sales force.

Sharon was born and raised in Kentucky, but woke up one day to find she had been bitten by the travel bug.

Amidst studying travel and tourism, she was encouraged to travel herself. A summer at Glacier National Park in Montana inspired a lifetime love of the outdoors.

In these travels, Sharon came across Portland and the Pacific Northwest and told herself one day she would live there.



Sharon Blodgett

She has traveled across the United States and lived in Hawaii, Chicago and Alaska, while working as a flight attendant for American Airlines. On a long layover in Portland, she decided she was ready for a change and to settle down. While in Portland, she met and fell in love with Rick. Sharon and Rick were working for a cruise ship headed to Alaska when they decided it was time to “jump ship.” They got married and lived in Juneau, Alaska, for about a year before deciding to move back to the Lower 48.

They moved to Bay City, Oregon,

where they lived until the move to Goldendale.

With an avid love for the outdoors, Sharon’s hobbies range from biking and hiking to camping and spending time with their golden retriever, Rio, or their two black cats, Maxine and C.C. Recently, she and a friend hiked a portion of the Pacific Crest Trail.

“I couldn’t stop smiling the whole trip,” Sharon says.

She also enjoyed running marathons in the past, and reminisced about one she completed with her brother, sister and aunt in Cincinnati.

“The exhilarating sense of accomplishment you get from coming around the corner and seeing that finish line—I would love to have that again,” she says.

Sharon is excited about her new position and has fit in perfectly.

“Her positive attitude and ability to accomplish anything you give her is exactly what we need,” says Director of Operations and Generation Ron Ihrig.

Please join KPUD in making Sharon and her family feel welcome and a part of the community. ■

Don't Let Pipes Freeze

Frozen water pipes are inconvenient and costly to repair.

Here are Klickitat PUD Water/Wastewater Department recommendations to prevent frozen pipes and thaw those that already are frozen.

- ▶ Let water from a faucet run at a slow, constant drip during extreme cold temperatures. This is cheaper than facing a repair bill.
- ▶ Remember to insulate all water pipes from cold moving air and keep them dry.
- ▶ To thaw a frozen pipe, heat the area around the frozen part with an electric space heater, a hand-held hair dryer or a heat lamp. If this is a problem, call a plumber.

If you have questions, please feel free to call.

White Salmon office: (509) 493-2255 or (800) 548-8358

Goldendale office: (509) 773-5891 or (800) 548-8357

Energy-Saving Rebates Available

Klickitat PUD offers customers a way to weatherize their homes in any energy-saving and cost-efficient way with its Conservation Rate Credit Program.

This program offers rebates to customers in a variety of categories, including appliances (clothes washers), air-to-air heat pumps, duct sealing, insulation, windows, solar installation, irrigation (pump motors and sprinkler parts) and commercial lighting.

There is also the KPUD Loan Program for any item that qualifies for a rebate. Items that qualify are eligible for a loan at 4.9-percent financing. Loans are issued from \$1,000 to \$10,000 to customers in good standing.

For more information, or to download rebate application forms, go to www.klickitapud.com/conservate/weatherrebate.asp, or contact the KPUD Energy Services Department for loan packets and rebate forms. ■