



LAKEHAVEN UTILITY DISTRICT

31627 1st Ave. S. | PO Box 4249 | Federal Way, WA 98063-4249
Federal Way: 253-941-1516, Tacoma: 253-927-2922 | www.lakehaven.org

May - June 2007

Commissioner's Corner

Don Miller



Proper prior planning prevents poor performance. The Commissioners and employees at the District have taken proactive steps to provide for an adequate supply of water and for well-managed treatment of wastewater. We have excellent employees who work hard to provide water/sewer services to you. Over the past few years, we have planned for, received, and put into operation many large generators which keep our water tanks full and guarantee the flow of wastewater to the treatment plants in the event of a power outage. When the lights went out during the windstorm of December '06, our customers had water and sewer service as a result of the use of our generators.

And the District just received the last few generators needed to back-up sensitive areas. They will be distributed when necessary.

In addition, the District's planning efforts include coordinating with the State, County, City, Fire, schools, hospitals, and Red Cross to provide emergency services to all who live in our community. Security is important and one problem we are currently experiencing is the theft of copper cable from public land. If you notice any unauthorized activity in a public area, please call 9-1-1 immediately.

Moving on to another topic, this is the time of year to enjoy your yard and outdoor activities in the great northwest! Several years ago, the District introduced Xeriscape gardening, which is a method of landscaping that emphasizes water conservation. The basic premise is to have native plantings or trees that cast shadows across your garden to reduce the need for heavy watering (It is usually best to water in the early morning). Also, you can use hanging Fuchsia and Geranium baskets to help drip water and fertilizer to the flowerbeds below. And soaker hoses will help apply water directly to the roots of your plants.

Lakehaven Utility District has a reasonable amount of water available so that you can feel free to water all summer, but please use it wisely. Because of prudent, long-range planning, the District has a plentiful supply of water. I hope you enjoy your yard and garden this summer. And be sure to visit the District's water conservation demonstration garden as featured on the front of this newsletter.

It is a great pleasure to serve you!

DISTRICT CAUTIONS AGAIN!

Lakehaven Utility District was informed in April of two instances where homeowners in the District's service area were contacted by a man who drove to their residence claiming to be a representative of a company called "Central Relocation Services". He stated that he worked under contract with Lakehaven and asked to access their backyards and/or homes to check water, sewer, and electrical services. The District is **not** associated with this company.

Additionally, three customers reported receiving phone calls from persons identifying themselves as representatives of Lakehaven Utility District notifying them that their credit card information had not been accepted.

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Charles I. Gibson
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Timothy A. McClain
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Donald L.P. Miller
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Ronald E. Nowicki
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The caller asked for more credit card information. While the District accepts credit card payments over the phone, it does not initiate contact with customers by phone requesting credit card information. We ask that if you receive such a call that you do not give out any information concerning your credit card/s. District staff notified the Federal Way Police of these events.

If you are contacted by a person representing himself or herself as a District employee, please do not let the person in your home until you have checked their identification. All District field employees wear uniforms consisting of a green shirt and blue coat, both of which bear the District's logo. These employees also carry a Lakehaven Utility District picture identification card, which consists of the employee's name, picture, and the District logo.

District employees generally do not need to enter a home, unless requested to do so by the customer. If a dye test or water shut off is to occur, you should receive a door hanger or phone call notifying you in advance. If you question whether a person, or persons, claiming to be a District employee is actually a District employee, do not allow the person or persons into your home and call Lakehaven Utility District Customer Service at telephone number 253-941-1516 or 253-927-2922.

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN

The Lakehaven Utility District Water Conservation Garden was constructed to serve as a demonstration garden to promote outdoor water conservation.

In conservation landscaping, the primary goal is to reduce the amount of water applied to the landscape. It may take up to three years to adapt a new or transformed landscape to a minimum of applied water, but with careful planning, it's quite possible to reduce or completely eliminate the need to supplement natural precipitation. Doing so will save you time, money, and help protect the environment.

Please feel free to visit the garden located in French Lake Park at 31531 First Avenue South, Federal Way, Washington.

BYO-GONE PRODUCT CONTROLS WASTEWATER ODORS & COST

The wastewater department has been participating in a trial study over the past 9 months with the addition of a biological product called BYO-GONE PX 109. After favorable feedback by operations staff, the product will be utilized in the collections system for the next three years.

BYO-GONE PX 109 is a biodegradable all natural biological stimulant at the cellular level. This product promotes enhanced metabolic activity in the key bacteria in wastewater that consume fats, oils, and greases. Fats, oils, and greases, commonly referred to as FOG, are a constant nuisance in wastewater, causing odors, plugged collection lines and odorous pumping stations. The addition of this chemical actually begins the treatment of the wastes in the collection systems before it reaches the headworks of the treatment plant. The degradation of FOG and keeping the bugs active and healthy safeguards the condition of the sewage by preventing it from turning septic and producing byproducts, such as hydrogen sulfide gas.

Hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) is an odorous gas that at lower levels smells like rotten eggs. H₂S is corrosive and can be highly poisonous and dangerous to work around. H₂S by nature is highly corrosive to most anything that it comes in contact with, including stainless steel and concrete. The District has over 275 miles of sewers; most made of concrete. The primary driver for replacement of these pipes is internal corrosion of the pipe from H₂S damage over

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periods of years. BYO-GONE should extend the life expectancy of the pipes, thus translating into potential savings in millions of dollars in rehabilitation costs. Treatment plant operations during this pilot study have improved to the point that the process air demands have been reduced by as much as 100 HP for the aeration equipment during the winter months. The power savings in running this equipment results in savings almost equal to the total costs of chemical addition.

This project is in alignment with the District's proactive philosophy to utilize resources to control costs long term, and to look out for the best interests of our ratepayers.

WATER FESTIVAL

The 8th annual regional Water Festival was held at Highline Community College on March 28th & 29th. The Festival is held each year to teach students about water quality. This year, 71 students from Federal Way Elementary Schools attended the event and the District paid for their transportation in addition to hiring a consultant to teach some of the classes.

SEWER RATE SURVEY

Staff conducted the following check on average monthly sewer rates for neighboring agencies (from low to high):

- Pierce County \$22.69*
- **Lakehaven Utility District \$23.26**
- City of Tacoma \$33.62
- City of Auburn \$34.85*
- City of Kent \$36.14*
- City of Puyallup \$47.31
- City of Bonney Lake \$47.82
- City of Sumner \$49.69
- City of Seattle \$54.08

The rates are monthly charges for a single family residence using a base rate of 800 cubic feet (cf) of water per month. 800 cubic feet of water is the average residential use in the District.

*denotes flat rate (no consumption charge).

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WATER CONSERVATION ACTIVITY

2007 Water Conservation Calendar Cover Winner by
Sherwood Forest Elementary 2nd Grade Student

Call 253-946-5446 if you would like a 2007 Water Conservation Calendar.

Your Board of Commissioners

Beverly J. Tweddle - President
Don Miller - Vice President
Ron Nowicki - Secretary
Chuck Gibson - Commissioner
Ed Stewart - Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
These meetings are held at the Lakehaven Center at:

Lakehaven Center
31531 First Ave. S.
Federal Way at 6 p.m.

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