



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

November - December 2003

Commissioner's Corner

Beverly J Tweddle



It seems that we are barely out of the glare of a most beautiful summer and autumn and now the holiday season is fast approaching. But before we forget the past season entirely, I wanted to share some random thoughts with you about something that was so prevalent this summer – brown, dormant lawns and dying ornamentals. We have stressed the water conservation message for about a dozen years now, and you have responded. Because of these efforts, we were able to avoid surpassing our existing record for water production in a day, despite experiencing the longest, hottest summer on record. However, as an avid gardener, I struggled with the seemingly incongruent concepts of garden and lawn watering and conservation.

My experience confirms that less frequent, but deep watering is a viable compromise to conservation when combined with a generous application of composted mulch on garden beds. The success of this approach is dependent, of course, on the lawn areas having been properly prepared with lots of water-retentive compost and drought resistant plants selected for the borders. I find that most ornamentals and lawn grasses do well with about 1" of water per week applied in one or two applications.

I always get revved up when thinking about gardening, so I wanted to let you know what is happening with the District's conservation garden. The garden, which emphasizes conservation practices in landscaping, was built 10 years ago in response to our recognition that the water supply was not without limits to support a burgeoning population. Many local businesses supplied much of the materials and labor that brought the garden to fruition. Now, as with any garden from time to time, renovation and restoration is necessary. The garden will be closed until spring while we undertake this activity.

Since this newsletter will be included with your November/December billing, I want to encourage you to think about this season of giving. Particularly for those who are experiencing difficult times because of job layoffs and the general downturn in the recent economy, the generosity of a neighbor can make such a great difference. We provide an opportunity for you to give to your neighbors in need through our Customer Assistance Program. The program, which is administered by the Multi-Service Center, helps less fortunate customers pay their water/sewer bills. Also, in cooperation with the local food bank, we have placed a barrel in our administrative office to collect donations of non-perishable food items. Remember this season that giving can be a blessing not only to the recipient, but to the giver as well.

Finally, I want to mention the value the District places on customer service. We recently acknowledged this priority by celebrating Customer Appreciation Week with items of information about the District, tools for water conservation and treats for parents and children who came by our office. The District continually strives to provide excellent customer service and we thank you for the kind words of many that stopped by and trust that your interaction with the

Customer Appreciation V

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Commissioner

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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District has been positive. As your Commissioner, I welcome any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to call me at 253-927-2832 or contact me by e-mail @ b.tweddle@worldnet.att.net.



Committee members left to
Jean Gardiner, Linda Mogensen, Marilyn Eva

Happy Holidays!!!!

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

With the 2004 Legislative Session rapidly approaching, the Board's Legislative Committee has been at work developing a legislative "to-do" program for the District in 2004. The proposed 2004 program, along with a summary of last year's legislation of interest, was presented to the Board at the October 23rd meeting.

Last year, the District advanced four bills in the legislature and supported a number of others. The bills introduced by the District included a bill to require a vote of ratepayers in the assumption of large, multi-jurisdiction districts; a bill establishing a higher limit for the use of in-house labor on public works projects; a bill to establish cost considerations in the retention of engineering consultants and a bill to allow the collection of future facility costs for water/sewer improvements to be installed by private developer. Although only a version of a public works bill similar to the District's was successfully passed into law, we feel that progress was made on all items.

This year the District will focus primarily on two bills. The main effort will be on seeking passage of a bill that will allow special purpose districts to consider engineering fees when selecting amongst qualified engineering consultants proposing to do work for the district. This would make the selection of engineers to perform design or other services on a project for a district more like the selection of a contractor on a public works construction job. As you probably know, public works laws require public agencies to select the lowest cost responsible bidder when awarding contracts for public improvements. The District also plans to pursue a bill to allow districts to collect and thereby participate with private developers in the up-front sharing of the cost of local facilities necessary to serve specific areas.

We expect to continue to support other bills, including bills that make ratepayer approval of the assumption of a district's service jurisdiction a legal prerequisite for a city to replace a district as the provider of water and sewer

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services in an area. We also look to continuing to work with other municipal water purveyors on improving the legal landscape for municipal water rights.

We look forward to reporting back to you on our progress in the next Newsletter!

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Throughout the year District staff encounter customers who, through a variety of circumstances, are unable to pay their water/sewer bill. With the assistance of our Customer Assistance Program Committee, the District oversees a Customer Assistance Program for individuals and families seeking help with their utility bills.

We need your help! Please consider making a tax-deductible donation to Lakehaven Utility District's Customer Assistance Program. Just fill in the appropriate space on your bill with the dollar amount and send it with your water/sewer bill. Electronic payers can write a check payable to Lakehaven Utility District and indicate that it is for the Customer Assistance Program. Please remember that no donation is too small and every dollar will help.

Also, in recognition that many in our community have extra needs during the Holiday season, Lakehaven is providing space for a donation barrel in the Customer Service area of the main office, on behalf of the Multi-Service Center. The office address is 31627 First Avenue South, Federal Way WA 98003.

Customers who visit the District are invited to make donations of especially needed items, such as canned vegetables, canned tomatoes and tomato sauce, canned fruits, tuna, packaged noodles, dry beans, peanut butter, cereal or oatmeal, baby formula, baby food, and diapers.

The donation barrel will be available until December 31, 2003 and all items will be delivered to the Federal Way Food Bank. Your participation and assistance will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your generosity and support of those in need!

SECURITY

In an effort to be proactive on security, surveillance cameras have been installed at various building locations throughout the District. Additionally, security gates were installed and a locked-box system was developed for the safekeeping of vehicle keys. The District makes every effort to protect the water supply for the community. Please help staff by being vigilant around remote District sites, such as well houses, tanks and buildings, and call the District at (253)-941-1516, if you notice anything out of the ordinary.

WINTERIZE PIPES

Now that winter is nearly upon us we need to be prepared for frozen pipes, or even worse, burst pipes. It is important that you know the location of the main shutoff valve to your home.

Most hardware stores have products specifically designed to insulate pipes, including heat tape. It is also helpful to wrap some insulation around your water meter, cutting a hole in the insulation so that the register of the meter is exposed. If your pipes should freeze, thaw them by adding hot water. You can also use a hairdryer on the low setting, making sure not to aim at one spot too long. NEVER use a blowtorch on frozen pipes.

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KIDS CORNER:

Pinecone Christmas Tree

For each Pinecone Christmas Tree you will need:

- A large, open pinecone (pick one that is tree-shaped and stands upright easily)
- Glitter
- A few cotton balls
- White glue (like Elmer's)
- Dental floss and a needle
- Small beads
- A small bow or star to top off your little tree

Glue a few cotton balls to the bottom of the pinecone. These look like snow and help the "tree" stand upright.

Put a little dab of glue at the tips of the pine cone and then sprinkle on glitter.

String some small beads onto dental floss (about 1 to 1 ½ ft or more, depending on the size of the pinecone). To string the beads easily, tie one bead securely to the string. Then give the floss to the child for stringing. Older children can use a needle to help with the stringing. When the stringing is done, tie off the last bead with a knot.

Wrap the beads around the pinecone and glue them to the tree.

Top off your tree with a small bow or other decoration.

Your Board of Commissioners

Dick Mayer - President

Ed Stewart - Vice President

Beverly J. Tweddle - Secretary

Tom Jovanovich - Commissioner

Donald L. P. Miller - Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held at:
Lakehaven Center
31531 First Ave. S.
Federal Way at 6 p.m.

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