



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 2001

Commissioner's Corner

Ed Stewart



It comes as an understatement of almost unprecedented proportions to say that much has happened since my last Commissioner's Corner article, which appeared in the January/February 2001 edition of this Newsletter.

We all remember that the end of February this year brought a major earthquake to the area. While we were extremely fortunate that no major occurrences of human injury or property damage were suffered in this community given the size and proximity of the quake, the earthquake served as a reminder that we must continue to be diligent in preparing for emergencies of all types. My sincere thanks goes out to the individuals who responded by staffing the Federal Way Emergency Operations Center during the aftermath of the quake. Their quick response enabled important information about the quake and the status of the community to be assessed and communicated in an orderly fashion.

Thanks in large part to several projects completed over the past years to retrofit the various water tanks located throughout the District to current earthquake standards, the water and sewer systems were able to withstand the big "shake" test with flying colors. While retrofitting the water tanks is expensive, the cost of tank failure, both in terms of risk to persons and property, can be catastrophic. The last of the projects to seismically upgrade our water tanks is planned for construction this year and should be completed by June 2002.

As with the earthquake, none of us will forget the horrible tragedies that befell our nation on September 11th. Since the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, the nation has been on alert for attacks of bio-terrorism aimed at targets within our country. Much of the focus has been directed at the public water and sewer systems as the potential targets of efforts to spread biological agents.

I want to assure you that the District has a reliable Emergency Management Plan which was developed to account for disasters of all types, including those which may be caused by attacks of bio-terrorism targeted on the water system. Without minimizing the seriousness of concerns over terrorism, we are also fortunate in these regards that our public water system is primarily a contained system. The water supply is drawn from underground wells, rather than surface water sources, and is stored in contained tanks prior to its delivery to the public. Unlike many public water systems, we do not operate any open reservoirs. In addition to the advantages of the physical configuration of the system, the water is treated with chlorine and thus is disinfected throughout the distribution system .

You have been informed over the year of significant major projects and system improvements that have been accomplished in 2001. These projects represent significant expenditures of time and money that have been accomplished within previously budgeted expenditure limits. Occasionally, significant expenses that were not planned, such as major changes to road and street rights-of-way that require relocations and or replacements of existing water or sewer improvements, occur. The financial goals the Board adopted during our last rate increase, which was at the beginning of last year, were developed to allow us to respond to a certain level of these unplanned expenditures and continue to provide reliable service within the revenue limits of existing rates. These rates are planned to remain at the same level through the year 2002. With these major expenditures behind us and recent labor contracts finalized for a few years, I trust that rate growth can be contained for the foreseeable future.

Leonard D. Englund
Commissioner

Charles I. Gibson
Commissioner

Timothy A. McClain
Commissioner

Donald L.P. Miller
Commissioner

Ronald E. Nowicki
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Many regards for a warm and joyous holiday season !

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Fall is the time of year during which the District develops its agenda of legislation for the upcoming legislative session. The Legislative Committee of the Board of Commissioners submitted the following Legislative Agenda to the Board at the October 11th meeting:

1. **Tax exemption for water/sewer utility work in public right of way-** develop legislation which will expand the existing retail sales tax exemption for improvement of public right of way to include public works projects to install, repair or replace water and sewer facilities in public right-of-way.
2. **Engineer/architect selection-** pursue a change to the existing engineering selection statute which will allow a public agency to request and consider professional fee rates in making the selection between engineers/architects of otherwise equal qualifications.
3. **Public works-** clarify and expand the conditions under which public works projects may be performed by public employees.
4. **Water and sewer system connection charges-** establish that districts may collect from property owners seeking to connect to the water/sewer systems without installing permanent local facilities the cost of future local facilities installed by private developers.
5. **Assumption of special purpose districts-** advance legislation that will require the ratepayers of special purpose water/sewer districts which provide service on a regional basis to approve the assumption of all, or part of, the district's service jurisdiction by a city under RCW Chapter 35.13A.
6. **Reclaimed water-** continue to pursue legislation to establish federal cost-sharing participation on reclaimed water projects within the District. **(Update – with thanks to Representative Adam Smith, the House bill to provide funding for Lakehaven's reclaimed water project appears to be headed for a vote in the U. S. House in late October. Assistance with Senate approval is expected from Senators Murray & Cantwell).**
7. **Water rights-** participate with public purveyor groups to establish legislation which will enhance the status of municipal water rights
8. **Public Works Trust Fund-** continue to work with other impacted groups to oppose loss of loan funding opportunities caused by legislative appropriations of public works trust fund monies allocated for public works projects.
9. **Aquifer storage and recovery-** pursue any necessary modifications to 1999 legislation



We will keep you updated as the 2002 Legislative Session develops.

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WINTERIZE WATER PIPES

Don't let snow and ice catch you unprepared. Prevent the expense and inconvenience of frozen or burst pipes by taking a few simple steps now.

1. Insulate exposed pipes and faucets.
2. Disconnect and drain hoses. Wrap the faucet with rags and duct tape, or buy a styrofoam faucet cover.
3. Know where your water shut-off valve is located.

Knowing the location of your shut-off valve and its proper operation is essential. You can help by keeping the water meter unobstructed for easy access in case of emergency.

For more information call Melinda @ 253-946-5426.

YOUR SEWER BILL

Water conservation is not just for the summer, but the winter as well. The sewer charge for single family residences is determined each year by the water usage shown in the billings for the months of January through April. Conserving your water usage now will not only save you money on your water bill, but your sewer bill as well.

A NOTE TO PARENTS ABOUT FLUORIDE

If you are new to our area, you may not be aware that we do not add fluoride to our water. If you have young children and the lack of fluoride is a concern, you may wish to talk to your dentist.

Kids Corner

Christmas Playdough Ornaments

- 1 cup of flour
- ½ cup of salt
- 1/3 cup of food coloring (Red or green food coloring works nicely)

Combine ingredients in a zip lock bag.

Squeeze bag until everything is mixed.

Remove playdough from bag and continue to mix with hands.

Use newspaper or construction paper to roll out the dough.

Use holiday cookie cutters to cut ornaments out of clay.

Use a straw to put a hole in the ornaments so that you can put string or ribbon through it to hang.

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Let ornaments dry for 24 hours.

Your Board of Commissioners

Donald L. P. Miller - President

Tom Jovanovich - Vice President

Dick Mayer - Secretary

Beverly J. Tweddle - Commissioner

Ed Stewart - Commissioner

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

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