

Commissioners' Corner



Len Englund

With a vast and complex infrastructure, the water and sewer systems operated by Lakehaven have many moving parts that need to operate smoothly and efficiently to provide you with the reliable and affordable water and sewer service that you have come to expect. The fact that these systems operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, places enormous challenges for the more than one hundred dedicated individuals working at the District. Between the employees handling operations of the water and sewer systems, and the group of hard-working professionals that supervise operations

and handle the administrative and business functions, our employees are truly the biggest resource we have.

As many businesses are facing these days, larger numbers of employees are choosing other jobs that have become available as our economy strengthens, or are reaching the age where retirement becomes a realistic alternative to the choice to continue working. Losing employees to retirement is nothing to complain about, we all want our employees to have a long and prosperous retirement as the conclusion to a successful career in their chosen field of work. The impact from this trend is that we have to do more and more recruitment and hiring to keep pace with the increasing need to fill positions.

We expect this pace of hiring to continue at a very high level for many years to come. This hiring increase is not just a phenomenon at Lakehaven. Many water and wastewater districts, as well as other municipal agencies operating water and/or sewer systems, such as counties, cities and towns in the region, are experiencing the same hiring increase to keep their operations fully staffed.

The point of this (and the companion article below) is that there are good job opportunities in the water and wastewater industries. We see more and more competition to attract good candidates to our job openings, particularly those that require technical skills and certifications. These jobs have excellent starting pay; provide great benefits (including a public employee pension); and offer abundant opportunities for advancement and promotion. For those wishing to make a career out of a job in the water and sewer industry, the sky is the limit!

Continued...

Lakehaven Links

Our Mission

The Lakehaven Water and Sewer District is committed to the continued delivery of safe, reliable and high quality drinking water and environmentally responsible sewer service to our customers.

Board of Commissioners

Len Englund, President

Tim McClain, Vice President

Don Miller, Secretary

Peter Sanchez

Ron Nowicki

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held at 6:00 p.m the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at the Lakehaven Center at 31531 1st Ave South, Federal Way.

Contact Us

Federal Way: 253-941-1516

Tacoma: 253-927-2922

After Hours Emergencies:
253-941-1516

Business Hours:

Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

www.lakehaven.org

Commissioner's Corner, continued

If you are interested, or know someone who is interested, keep an eye out for job announcements on our website. You can also go to the website for the Washington Association of Sewer and Water District ("WASWD") and check for a broader list of openings in water and sewer districts across the state. If you have the time to plan, there is a two-year program offered at Green River Community College that prepares an individual for work in the water and wastewater fields. A more general college education is also a benefit for those looking at the office and professional positions that come up. Keep in mind that we employ engineers, computer professionals, project managers, accountants, customer service and billing staff, inspectors/permitting staff and others in addition to those employees that actually operate the water and wastewater systems.

I continue to believe that a career in the water and/or wastewater industry can be an enriching and rewarding experience. Please give it a look!



1st Place winning poster

Careers in Water and Wastewater

Have you ever thought about a career in the water and wastewater industry? Maybe not for yourself, but what about for your children? Jobs in the industry typically pay well and offer good benefits, a real premium as many industries cut benefits back.



The simple fact is that skilled workers in the water and wastewater industries will continue to be in high demand in the coming decades. At Lakehaven, we have noticed a trend of less and less qualified applicants for the positions we advertise that either require, or recommend, certifications from the state licensing agencies that regulate the water and wastewater utility systems. Candidates with certifications to operate wastewater treatment plants are in particularly short supply in the region.

At present, Green River Community College has a program that offers training in water and wastewater utility operations that will enable students to get these certifications. The program includes training to operate water distribution systems, wastewater treatment plants, wastewater collection systems, utility electrical systems and water and wastewater laboratories. There is something there for every interest and the training will be an invaluable resource to those looking to make their careers in the industry. Keep an eye out for our job postings on the website!

2017 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS

Lakehaven Water and Sewer District presented awards to local elementary students participating in its 21st annual Water Conservation Poster Contest at the District's May 25th Board meeting. The purpose of the contest is to help children understand the importance of water conservation through the development of posters containing a water conservation message.

Approximately 70 members of the community, including students and their families, teachers and principals attended the Board meeting. There were 210 poster entries submitted from 11 Federal Way Elementary Schools, and 13 winning posters were selected to include in the District's 2018 Water Conservation Calendar.



A special "Thank you!" goes to Wild Waves Theme Park, SKFR Fire Station, Red Canoe Credit Union, Woodstone Credit Union, Trader Joe's, Target, and Subzero Ice Cream for their generous donations to the contest winners.

L - R 1st Row: Eva S., Holly L., Huda K., Mira D. & Deanna L.

L - R 2nd Row: Kalolaine T., Samantha S., Anayah C., Dessirrae O., & Calli O. (1st Place Winner)

L - R 3rd Row: Commissioners, McClain, Sanchez, Miller, Englund & Nowicki