

Commissioners' Corner



Peter Sanchez

Do you ever wonder where the water comes from when you turn on the faucet, or does it even cross your mind? I'd like to tell you a little about where it comes from and how it gets to you.

Let's start at the source and work towards your home or business. Lakehaven actually has water from two sources: ground water from several aquifers in the greater Federal Way area, and surface water that comes from the Green River watershed and is stored behind the Howard Hanson Dam (located about 20 miles east of Auburn).

Lakehaven has 25 production wells located throughout the service area. These wells pump water into the large storage tanks you've seen around the area. These storage tanks serve two purposes. One is to ensure adequate pressure in the system. The other is to provide extra volume when higher than normal usage occurs (think large fires, or thousands of football fans flushing the toilet during half time of the Super Bowl with the Seahawks ahead by 14 points).

In 2000, we joined with Tacoma, Kent, and the Covington Water District, to develop a supply pipeline from the Howard Hanson Dam to supplement our ground water resources. Snow melt and rain water fill the reservoir behind the dam allowing Lakehaven to draw up to 6.5 million gallons of water a day during the drier months of the year. This allows the aquifers to rest and recharge. In 2015, working with our partners, we opened a new filtration plant to the pipeline to make the water even more pure and reliably available than it was previously.

There are literally hundreds of miles of water lines running throughout the service area. These range in size from 24" transmission mains down to a four-inch pipe in front of your house, with a one-inch pipe "teeing" off from the main to serve your house. Note that those four-inch pipes are typically the oldest in the system and are reaching the end of their expected service life. Because of their age, and the fact that they do not meet current standards for water supply systems, they are being upgraded to eight-inch ductile iron pipe as part of an ongoing replacement program.

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

Don Miller, President
Peter Sanchez, Vice President
Len Englund, Secretary
Ron Nowicki
Tim McClain

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

Commissioners' Corner, cont. from page 1

Other parts of the system include booster pumps to increase pressure in areas far away from the storage tanks, and, conversely, pressure reducing valves to lower the pressure in areas at lower elevation. There are also thousands of valves in the pipes to control and isolate the flow of water in the event of a main break. The last component of the system are the 38,000 water meters that connect homes and businesses to the water supply.

Finally the most important parts of the water distribution system: the dedicated Lakehaven employees who operate and maintain the system. They not only work their regular shifts during the week days, they are also available nights, weekends, and holidays to respond to emergencies so that you don't have to wonder if the water will flow when you turn on the faucet.



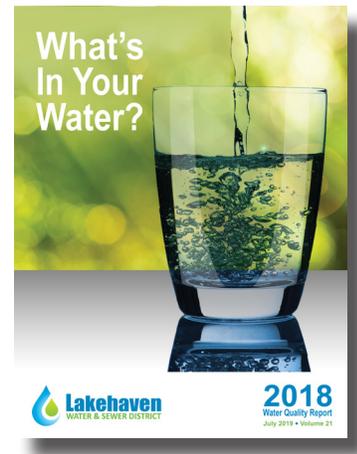
A Friendly Reminder

Please be sure to trim bushes/branches and clean debris around your water meters.
Thank you!

Water Quality Report

Each year we provide an updated water quality report that summarizes where our drinking water comes from, and how it is tested, treated, monitored, and protected in accordance with the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act during the previous year (2018).

You can find the report online at www.lakehaven.org/ccr, or you can contact us if you would like a copy mailed to you.



Administrative Headquarters Project Update

After considering the alternative means for pursuing the design and construction of a new Administrative Headquarters Building, the Board of Commissioners has determined to use the General Contractor/Construction Manager (GC/CM) method for the project. This method of public works procurement is authorized under state law as an alternative to the traditional design/bid/build process and is widely used by public agencies across the State. The GC/CM procurement method allows the public agency to select a general contractor early in the procurement process, which brings elements of collaboration between the contractor and architect into the design process and improved risk management between owner and contractor in the construction process.

In order to be eligible to use the GC/CM process, the District, and the Headquarters Project, must first be approved for GC/CM use by the State of Washington. The review of the District's application is scheduled for September 26th. The District selected Parametrix to serve as its Project and Construction Manager through the GC/CM design and construction process. Helix Architects of Fife continues as the design team on the project. Current scheduling has the Administrative Headquarters Project being complete by the spring of 2023.

Excise Tax Update

On August 7th, the Washington Supreme Court issued its decision to retain review of the question of whether the excise tax imposed on revenues collected by Lakehaven, Midway Sewer District and Highline Water District is lawful. Lakehaven, Midway and Highline filed an appeal of a 2018 ruling in King County Superior Court upholding the legality of the tax and were joined by Federal Way in the request for direct review by the Supreme Court.

As of the date of preparation of this Update (middle August), no date has been set for oral argument. It is anticipated that oral argument will be held at either the end of 2019 or the first part of 2020. The final ruling could be late spring or early summer 2020.