

Commissioners' Corner



Laura Belvin

Greetings to all Lakehaven customers and employees! I am honored to serve as your newly appointed commissioner. My term started in January, and I've been busy meeting employees, touring facilities, and doing commission business. I am so happy to be serving in my field of training (with my master's degrees in water civil engineering and public administration) for the benefit of our community.

I wanted to be a commissioner because I am passionate about water: my family loves swimming, boating, canoeing, hiking and camping near streams and beaches. It was also my chosen field of training, as hydrology and hydraulics are the emphasis of my civil engineering degrees, and the focus of my professional engineering work. I am excited to be serving in this field, and to bring an engineering perspective to the Board. We all can be grateful for the often unseen efforts of good engineering and planning for the reliable water and sewer service that we all enjoy. As a commissioner, I hope to help continue that legacy.

I also value learning and helping others to learn. I teach, have recently obtained a new degree in public administration, and have founded a non-profit education service. I believe that the more people understand about something (including their water and sewer service) the more they will appreciate it and contribute to making it better. As a commissioner, I would like to promote opportunities for learning about the utility through our schools and community gatherings.

I also have a passion for serving. I've been involved serving our community through leading various non-profit organizations for over thirty years. Recently I have been active chairing the Federal Way Park's Commission, singing in a regional choir that does benefit concerts, and helping my son's Boy Scout troop. Serving builds community and increases appreciation, communication, connectedness and understanding. I encourage everyone to give at least an hour of their week volunteering and participating in community activities.

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

Peter Sanchez, President
Ron Nowicki, Vice President
Len Englund, Secretary
Don Miller, Commissioner
Laura Belvin, Commissioner

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

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I appreciate the fact that our water and sewer is provided by a non-profit special purpose government, instead of a private company. Commissioners lead the utility as public servants. All of your commissioners live in the District, and are motivated to provide great service and maintain our assets with reasonable rates.

I love Federal Way, having lived and raised six kids here for over 30 years. I would love to meet you and hear from you. You can call the office to schedule an appointment. The public is always welcome at our board meetings in the Lakehaven Center (by the French Lake Dog Park) on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6:00 p.m.



2020 Rate Comparison

Included in this issue of Lakehaven Links, you'll find an insert of the 2020 Rate Comparison.

The comparison shows how Lakehaven's water and sewer rates compare with rates charged by neighboring agencies.

Lakehaven Begins Year with New Commissioner

The Lakehaven Water and Sewer District begins the year with a new Board member. Laura Belvin, a longtime Federal Way resident, was appointed by the Board of Commissioners in December to fill the seat previously occupied by Tim McClain.

Commissioner Belvin brings many years of community service to the Board. She has been a member of the City of Federal Way Parks Commission since 2013, serving as its chairperson since 2017. She holds bachelor and master's degrees in civil engineering and a master's degree in public administration. Commissioner Belvin previously worked as a licensed professional engineer in the area of hydraulics and hydrology with a Seattle-based engineering consulting firm and also spent time working as an engineer for the City of Seattle and King County.

With her appointment, Commissioner Belvin looks to bring both her interest in community service and her background in the science of civil engineering to the water and sewer utility, noting, "I am honored and privileged to be appointed to this position and look forward to using my education and experience to serve the District well".

Board Chair Peter Sanchez feels, "Laura was an excellent fit for the Board. She brings a background of education, experience, and a commitment to our community that will greatly benefit the District's ratepayers. We are very excited to add her to our Lakehaven team." As an appointed member of the Board, Commissioner Belvin's term runs through the year 2021.

King County Franchise Rental Charge Update

As reported in the last newsletter, the Washington Supreme Court recently upheld the legality of the King County Ordinance authorizing the County to collect a rental charge from water/sewer districts and other utilities operating facilities in County right of way. At present, the District, along with a group of other water/sewer districts in King County, is pursuing a challenge to the County's methodology for calculating the rental charge. This may involve a return to the King County Superior Court and further proceedings and negotiations to address rent calculations (the County's rent calculation methodology can be viewed at: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/about/policies/rules/property/rpm92pr.aspx>).

Over the coming months, the District will be reviewing implementation of the rental charges for water and sewer facilities in County right-of-way identified to the District in the County's initial rent notice. The rental charge would be added to water and sewer rates for ratepayers within the unincorporated areas of King County. While no firm date for implementation of the charge has been determined at this time, it will likely be no sooner than the second half of 2020. The rent challenge and any negotiations with King County could change this schedule and we will keep you updated as the matter develops.

