Commissioners’ Corner

Amidst the harsh realities of COVID-19, it’s easy to take water and sewer service for granted. In fact, it’s fine with us at Lakehaven if you do. Having your lives disrupted by the virus and its impact on so many things that were part of our normal existence is plenty to deal with. In order that you don’t have to worry about water and sewer service, we remain dedicated to excellence and effectiveness.

Although our emergency planning was typically focused more on earthquake events than a global pandemic, the District was prepared to deal with the COVID-19 Emergency. We developed a pandemic plan a number of years ago and have been using it to help guide operations through these difficult times. Our managers and commissioners have participated in emergency training programs on both the local and national level for many years. We also have an excellent Safety Manager who has been instrumental in helping us implement state, local and federal regulatory protocols for safety. This and our own “Safe Return to Work Plans”, have helped keep our employees protected in the workplace. Zoom meetings and employees working remotely, the “new normal”, has also enhanced social distancing to help prevent the spread of the virus at work. With minimal disruption of employee staffing, I can only conclude that our preparation was spot on.

As a bright spot, we are finalizing plans for our new Administrative Headquarters Building. Using the General Contractor/Construction Manager system of public works procurement has resulted in high levels of coordination between participants and is working well. Representatives from the work groups and the Board have been meeting as a committee with the architect to provide design and development input on a regular basis. When the building is complete, in late 2022 or early 2023, the combining of our work groups under one roof will create many important efficiencies in all areas of our operations, from customer service to engineering to field operations and more. We will also have a much better space to conduct Board and other meetings in an enlarged room near the center of the main floor.

Continued...
Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) System Update

After successfully completing the pilot testing phase of the AMR Project earlier this year, the District has moved to the implementation stage of the project. When the project is complete, sometime in 2024, all manual-read meters in the service area (approximately 35,000) will be replaced with AMR meters.

AMR meters collect consumption data from customers’ water meters through the use of low-level radio frequency technology. Rather than visually inspecting the register on each meter, District crews drive by AMR meters and collect the data on an electronic device (for most of you, your Puget Sound Energy electricity and gas meters are AMR meters). The benefits of AMR over manual read meters are many. They are safer and more efficient to read, limit human error in the data entry, and provide daily consumption information that can be helpful to detect the presence of leaks.

Please note that water service may be interrupted as the new meters are installed. Home/Business owners will be notified prior to their water being shut off. Most installations will take approximately 20 minutes. If you have any questions, please take a look at the information on the District’s website (www.lakehaven.org). You may also contact the Project Manager, Phil Hite, at 253-945-1585.

Put Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) in the Trash Where They Belong

Sewer blockages can be a direct result of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) that you may be unknowingly discharging into the sewer system.

These blockages are a serious problem that can lead to a hazardous sewage spill. The blockages can be caused by a buildup of FOG that creates a clog in the sewer pipe.

Your help is needed to stop these blockages from occurring. In order to stop sewer blockages, please properly dispose of fats, oils, and grease by following these simple instructions:

- Never pour fats, oils, and grease down the sink or garbage disposal.
- Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans, and dishes with a paper towel and dispose of it in the trash.
- Use a grease can and plastic liners to collect all your excess fats, oils, and grease.
- Cool fats, oils, and grease and pour into the grease can.
- Once the grease can is full, remove and tightly secure the liner. Place it in the trash along with other absorbent material like paper towels, kitty litter, or coffee grounds.

The removal of a grease blockage and the cleanup associated with a sewage spill is very expensive and may result in liability and property damages. Sewage spills also harm the environment and cause beach closures.

Thank you for your help in preventing sewer blockages and spills.