

Commissioners' Corner



Len Englund

The District operates two wastewater treatment plants providing treatment of the wastewater collected from your homes and businesses. One is located in the Redondo neighborhood and the other near Lakota Beach. These treatment plants, which were initially built over 60 years ago, both received significant upgrades over 30 years ago. Unfortunately, they are both nearing some capacity limitations.

With the significant growth in the area and more stringent regulations on wastewater discharge, the District is looking to invest in large capital projects to upgrade and expand these facilities. When completed, these upgrades will provide another 30-plus years of sewer capacity. Managing the increased demand and regulatory changes takes careful planning. Fortunately, in the 1970's, 80's, and 90's, smart and forward-looking staff and commissioners anticipated the potential growth and the eventual need to expand. One aspect of this planning was to make certain that there was adequate space for future plant expansion.

The Lakota treatment plant sits on about 22.5 acres of land, with 19 acres of adjacent land owned by the District. The current uses require only a fraction of the total land. Imagine the challenge of finding that amount of space today in the Federal Way area. While the District's smaller Redondo plant (about half the capacity of Lakota) sits on a 6 acre parcel with much less room for expansion, we still have some room for upgrades that will make the plant more efficient. With its larger land area, it is clear that the Lakota plant will be where the greatest expansion of treatment facilities occurs. Fortunately, much of the property should remain in its natural state as a buffer to adjoining properties!

The reality is that upgrading and expanding wastewater plants is expensive. For Lakota alone, we are planning to invest close to \$100 million dollars in the next ten years. Expanding the capacity of the treatment plants, however, is not just about enlarging the physical plants. Reducing vagrant flows of water that come into the plants, particularly at the Redondo Plant, can also provide a large measure of added capacity.

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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. Please check the website for meeting information.

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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Over the past three years, the District has identified areas within the wastewater collection system where groundwater seeps into the collection pipes at high volumes. This intrusion, referred to as "I & I" (Inflow & Infiltration), occurs when aging pipes, including side sewers, wear out or become damaged. During significant rain events, rainwater seeps into the collection system, where it is transported to the treatment plants. In an effort to mitigate the impact of this, we have initiated projects to repair these sewer pipes by re-lining them. The cost of re-lining is significantly less than installing new sewer pipes and is more "environmentally friendly".

The ongoing challenge is to figure out how to repair infrastructure and expand capacity efficiently. With the help of our capable staff, the Board continues to squeeze every dollar and invest in the best new technologies and alternatives that will keep us within our financial means as we upgrade the wastewater system.

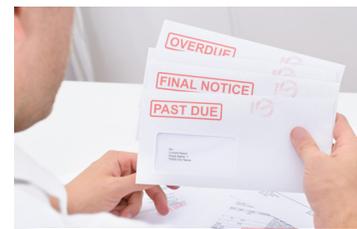
Free Calendars

If you would like one of our 2021 Water Conservation Poster Contest Calendars, please contact Lisa Alexander @ 253-946-5420 or lalexander@lakehaven.org with your name, address and phone number and we will mail a copy to you.

Delinquent Account Payment Plan

A reminder to customers with delinquent account balances of greater than \$200 that the District has established a Delinquent Account Payment Plan to help with the financial burdens of water and sewer service during these difficult times. In order to be eligible for an Interim Payment Plan ("Interim Plan"), customers will need to enter into an Interim Plan within sixty days of notice of eligibility. If you enter into the Interim Plan and remain current, you will be eligible for a Final Plan after the restriction on shutoffs and penalties on delinquent accounts expires. The length of the Final Plan will, like the Interim Plan, be determined by the amount of the delinquency. If you enter the Interim Plan and are unable to complete it, you will have 90 days to pay your balance after the restrictions are lifted. If you are notified of your eligibility and do not enter into an Interim Plan, you will need to pay the entire balance within 30 days of the expiration of the state restrictions.

The Delinquent Account Payment Plan was created to benefit customers during these times. There is more detail on the District's website, at www.lakehaven.org. If you have questions about the Plan, or need other assistance, you can also contact Kay Anthony, at 253-946-5422 or kanthony@lakehaven.org.



Employees Retiring

We want to wish the best to two long-term employees who have reached the end of their careers with the District.

Susan Tofflemire - For those of you that had an occasion to come to the front desk in our Customer Services Department, you will remember Susan as the smiling face that always had a warm greeting for customers. Susan first started working at Lakehaven in 1989 as a Customer Service Representative and, over the course of her career, handled the responsibilities of collecting in-person, mail, and electronic payments and processing the account updates for payment transactions.



Wes Hill - Wes, a licensed civil engineer with a broad base of experience with road and utility infrastructure, came to the District in 2004 and served as the head of the District's Development Services Department for the first five years of his career. He then moved into a position as a Project Engineer and oversaw many of the District's water and sewer main replacement projects in public right of way.



Please join us in congratulating both Susan and Wes for their outstanding careers with the District. They will both be missed!