

Commissioners' Corner



Ron Nowicki

This is my last Commissioner's Corner article. I have decided not to seek re-election in November. Fifteen years ago I was appointed to the Board and have thoroughly enjoyed the journey.

It is a privilege to serve as a Commissioner on the best run water and sewer district in the state. That is in large measure due to the approximately 115 excellent employees. The talent and commitment of the staff and managers is outstanding.

Many things have changed over the years, including our name, but the dedication of the utility to efficient and effective service at a reasonable cost has not. We are presently embarking on a large capital improvement program, including a much needed office complex. We are installing an automatic remote meter-reading system. We are up-grading both treatment plants to meet future growth as well as increasingly stringent environmental regulations. We are renovating and improving our collection system to reduce rainwater inflows. Our water distribution system is being slowly rebuilt to replace aging pipes.

I would encourage anyone who has an interest in water and wastewater, and a desire to serve in the community, to check out what it takes to be a commissioner at Lakehaven. It is well worth the effort. Thank you for the privilege to serve you.

Water Conservation Poster Contest

After many years of sponsoring a contest among local elementary students to create artwork using water conservation as a theme, the District is pausing the contest this year. With schools and students alike dealing with the trying circumstances of virtual learning due to COVID -19, along with the state requirement limiting in-person board meetings, the Board determined it better to put the contest on hold this year. To keep the tradition of creating a calendar to feature conservation artwork alive, the District will be creating a 2022 calendar with all of the past first place winning posters on the covers of calendars from previous years. The District looks forward to distributing these calendars in the fall and to resuming the poster contest next year.

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

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

AMR

(Automated Meter Reading)

As reported previously, the District is currently replacing all manual-read water meters with meters that can be read remotely through the radio frequency transmissions they emit (most of you have an automated Puget Sound Energy meter at your homes and businesses). These meters will allow for much faster and more accurate collection of water consumption information and will enable the District to provide you with better information concerning patterns of water use during your billing cycle. This information can help determine the existence and duration of water leaks in your plumbing.

The District is aware that customers may be concerned about the radio frequency waves transmitted from the AMR meters. We believe the radio frequency transmissions are safe and will not endanger humans or animals. To help you better understand the issues associated with these radio waves, we have placed an [information sheet](#), prepared by the company that manufactures the meters we are installing, on our website. We urge you to take a look if you have any questions about the safety of these meters.

2021 Water and Sewer Rate Survey

Included with your bill is the “2021 Water and Sewer Rate Survey”. The survey compares the rates you pay for water and sewer service with the rates paid by the customers of neighboring utilities.



The rates we show in the survey are the rates charged to residential customers inside the City of Federal Way, the largest geographic portion of our service area.

Because Federal Way charges the District an excise tax on water and sewer rates within the city of 7.75%, water and sewer rates are higher inside Federal Way than in other parts of the District*. Most cities impose utility taxes on the water and sewer rates they charge. For any given city in the survey, we are uncertain whether rates shown by the city include those taxes. Additionally, some agencies in the survey charge different summer and winter rates to residential customers. Where that is the case, we show a blended rate to provide the average cost of water over a year.

*Note that Federal Way contributes to the cost of maintaining fire suppression capacity within the City, which reduces the difference on water rates. On the sewer side, also note that a relatively small number of District customers within areas that flow to Tacoma and King County for wastewater treatment pay more for sewer service.

New Website Coming Soon

We’re getting a fresh new look—full of features that will make navigation easier. Check out the new website in April at www.lakehaven.org.

