

## Commissioners' Corner



Peter Sanchez

As I write this in late March, it looks like we may be seeing the light at the end of the proverbial tunnel; and it's not a train coming at us. Things are looking like we will be able to return to a semblance of normal with the increased availability of three Covid vaccines now authorized for use in the country. My wife and I have received both doses of the Pfizer vaccine and knowing that we have some protection from the virus has made a big difference in our outlook.

Because Lakehaven provides not just water, but sewer service also, the District had a head start when the virus first impacted our operations. Sanitation and personal protective equipment (PPE) is a must when working in a wastewater treatment plant or the sewer system so precautions were nothing new. The District ramped up the emphasis on sanitation and PPE in all of our work places. Those who could work from home did so, those who couldn't worked staggered shifts. Social distancing has been maintained and temperature checks and health questions are required prior to entering District buildings. All of these precautions have paid off. While some employees have had to take time off from work because of potential exposure to Covid, the District has not had anyone become ill from an at-work exposure. To date, seven employees have contracted Covid through an off-work exposure and I'm glad to say that they have all made full recoveries and have returned to work.

Keeping the District functioning and our employees' safe through all of this has been a huge task. All of our management staff put in a lot of effort in this regard. In particular, our Human Resource Manager and our Safety Manager made sure that the District stayed up to date with the constantly changing State and Federal requirements, as well as CDC guidelines. All of our personnel have done their part to keep themselves and others safe during these trying times. Moving forward, the District will continue to follow all recommended protocols.

Throughout all of this the District's day-to-day functions have continued. Water and sewer service, as well as treatment plant operations, have been fairly normal.

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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

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.

[lakehaven.org](http://lakehaven.org)

## Commissioners' Corner, cont.

Planning for future expansion and upgrades has continued as well. We expect construction on our new office and maintenance complex to begin in late spring or early summer. This project will bring much needed office space for staff, as well as space for our field crews, which are currently located at the Lakota Treatment Plant. The relocated crews will be in a more central location for dispatch, which will free up much needed space at the plant.

If you are having a problem paying your water/sewer bill there is help available. The Federal Way Multi Service Center has funds that can be applied to your bill. Contact them for details. Also, please contact the District office if you are having trouble paying your bill, there are options available for payment of overdue bills.

Please take care of yourselves and stay healthy.



## Water Quality Report

Starting July 1, 2021 you will be able to view the Lakehaven Water & Sewer District Annual Water Quality Report on-line at [lakehaven.org/CCR](http://lakehaven.org/CCR). This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water during 2020. Please call (253) 946-5442 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home.

## Clean Audit

The District is pleased to report a clean audit for the recently completed audit of year 2019. A “clean” audit is one in which no findings are issued and no material misstatements are noted in the District’s financial statements. The audit, performed annually by the Office of the State Auditor (or approved third-party auditor), examines the District’s financial statements and its compliance with legal requirements that regulate the management and operation of the water and sewer utility. The District has extreme regard for its obligation to meet these financial reporting and legal compliance requirements. The current report continues the District’s long record of receiving audits free of findings.



## King County Rental Charge Update

The District and other water and sewer utilities within King County continue to pursue litigation with the County to establish the collection methodology and rules for implementation of the County’s right of way rental charge. The authority for King County to collect a rental charge for the location of utility infrastructure in County roadways was affirmed by the Washington Supreme Court in 2019. The case was sent back to the King County Superior Court, which had initially ruled that the County lacked authority to charge rent, to determine how the rental charge should be calculated and applied. The trial date, which has been pushed back a couple of times (in part due to COVID-19), is now set for March 2022. We will keep you updated on any new developments in the case.



## It's Official! We've Launched Our New Website

All of the information and tools you need at your fingertips. Our goal with this new website is to provide our visitors an easier way to learn about the District’s services, as well as to allow each user to get account information and pay their bill easily online.

We will continue to update our content with helpful information, articles, newsletters, reports and announcements—so make sure to check in with us often.

Check out the new website at [lakehaven.org](http://lakehaven.org)