



LAKEHAVEN UTILITY DISTRICT

31627 1st Ave. S. | PO Box 4249 | Federal Way, WA 98063-4249
Federal Way: 253-941-1516, Tacoma: 253-927-2922 | www.lakehaven.org

January - February 2009

Commissioner's Corner

Donald L.P. Miller



2009 looks like it will be a good year to remind ourselves of the benefits of “practical living”.

Being practical can be as simple as remembering the good advice given us during our life by parents, teachers, friends and employers. Being thrifty is a good habit to have during these times. The advantages of saving a little and prioritizing expenditures will provide a cushion for our family budgets. By practicing good maintenance of our equipment (e.g. don't forget to change the car oil) and household goods, we can extend the life of the items we purchase. I like to use a team and family approach to getting projects completed. Gardening is an inexpensive way to improve the look of your home and the bonding with family and friends who join to help is very fulfilling.

As our budget at the District grows tighter, we have been focusing on “practical living” as an approach to managing the utility. With my background in the National Guard and experience and training in Emergency Management, I have been keenly interested in emergency preparedness. We currently have an excellent system of back-up generators and supplies available to help us meet our needs during emergencies. Our coordination with the City of Federal Way, South King Fire and Rescue and the Federal Way School District gives the public agencies that serve you access to additional resources to benefit the greater community.

I recently read a book on the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire. The book describes this famous natural disaster in San Francisco and other great calamities that have taken their toll on the physical infrastructure. I think the best parts of the stories are the descriptions of how the forces of humanitarian cooperation have been engaged to repair the tremendous damage brought about by these catastrophes. When we, as caring people, work together for the common good, we shine and fulfill the call to serve our neighbors.

As we begin 2009, please know that many dedicated people in our community are doing their best to make this a better place to live and work. I am happy to be a part of the team here at Lakehaven Utility District! The Board and our staff are always open to your thoughts and questions. Best regards for the upcoming year.

DRINKING WATER – EMERGENCY TIPS

It is not possible to predict how long water service will be impacted during an emergency. However, it is likely that it could take several days after an earthquake to restore the water distribution system back to “normal” operating conditions.

- Store one gallon of drinking water per day per person to last at least 72 hours.
- If unsure whether your water is safe to drink, boil the water for one minute (after it reaches boiling). Before boiling, strain it through a clean cloth to remove any sediment, floating matter or glass.
- If you cannot boil the water, you can disinfect water with common household liquid chlorine bleach. This will kill bacteria in the water. Add eight drops of bleach per gallon with an eyedropper for clear and 16 drops

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per gallon if the water is cloudy. Shake and let stand for 30 minutes before using. A slight chlorine odor should be detectable in the water.

- Store emergency drinking water in strong plastic containers (such as pop bottles) in a cool dry place away from sunlight. Sterilize the container and disinfect the water after filling (see above) to slow possible bacteria growth that can occur in stored water. Make sure to label and date the container. Replace every 3-4 months. Water stored longer than that should be disinfected before use.

EMERGENCY GENERATOR POWER PROJECTS

As part of the District's Comprehensive Water System Plan and to provide for greater system reliability, emergency power generators were recommended for the Well 17/17A/17B and Well 19/19A sites. These two sites have "multiple wells" that are capable of providing approximately 8.4 million gallons of drinking water, which is nearly equivalent to the District's average daily winter water demand. The emergency generator power projects were completed in 2008 and include a 1,000 Kilowatt diesel powered generator for the Wells 17/17A/17B site and a 500 Kilowatt diesel powered generator for the Well 19/19A site. With completion of these projects, Lakehaven Utility District is better prepared to provide an uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water during power outages and other emergency periods when commercial power is not available.



BOARD ADOPTS WATER AND SEWER RATE INCREASES

With the adoption of the District's 2009-2010 Biennial Budget, the Board of Commissioners found it necessary to increase the 2009 water and sewer rates to meet the increase in operating expenditures and reduce the rate at which the reserve is being depleted. The Board approved an additional 2% increase to the previously approved 8% increase in water rates and 5% increase in sewer rates. The increase will mean an increase of approximately \$2.10 per month for the average residential water customer and approximately \$1.77 per month for the average residential sewer customer.

In another rate matter, the Board also changed policy to stop subsidies. Due to topography, a small but significant portion of Lakehaven customers have sewage which flows directly to other surrounding utilities that Lakehaven has been subsidizing. Beginning in July 2009, customers in the King County/Metro drainage basin will pay an additional \$3.00 per month base charge plus \$0.52 per hundred cubic feet of water consumed. Customers with flows going to Pierce County will pay an additional \$1.75 per month base charge plus \$0.30 per hundred cubic feet of water consumed. In 2010, these rates will be increased further to collect the full amount of the additional cost of sewer treatment services charged by these agencies. The increases were necessary to recover the extra costs of sewer service to customers with sewage flows treated outside of the District treatment system. A map will be posted on

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the District's website (www.lakehaven.org) to detail the areas impacted by these increases. The Board will also host public meetings to directly address those customers impacted by this change.

12TH AVENUE SW/MARINE VIEW DR. WATER LINE REPLACEMENT

Work on the 12th Avenue SW & Marine View Drive Water Line Replacement project started in January '09. The construction contract was awarded to RP&Company, Inc., the low bidder and the project will replace 4,700 LF of aging, undersized 4" AC water main.

KIDS CORNER

TAF ACADEMY STUDENTS TOUR CONSERVATION GARDEN AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT



Sixth Grade students from the Federal Way Public School's Technology Access Foundation Academy tour the District's Water Conservation Garden (31531 1st Ave. South) as part of their science curriculum.



WATER CONSERVATION EVENT

- Applications for the Water Conservation Calendar poster contest will be mailed to elementary schools in February. Please contact the District at 253-946-5446 if you would like an application for your student.

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Your Board of Commissioners

Chuck Gibson - President
Ed Stewart - Vice President
Beverly J. Tweddle - Secretary
Don Miller - Commissioner
Ron Nowicki - Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month.
These meetings are held at the Lakehaven Center at:

Lakehaven Center
31531 First Ave. S.
Federal Way at 6 p.m.

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