



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 2011

Commissioner's Corner

Tim McClain



I wish you all the best in 2011. This is the first newsletter that I am privileged to write since being appointed to the Lakehaven Utility District Board of Commissioners in October 2010.

My wife, Faye, and I moved to Federal Way in the spring of 1979 with our 3 children. We purchased a new home in a neighborhood surrounded by a forest. The only way to get to our home was either to drive west from I-5 on South 320th Street, which was a two lane road from 1st Avenue South, or from South 356th Street, which was also a two lane road. Now our home is surrounded by clusters of other homes and a shopping center two blocks away. During these 31 years of growth, I am sure that I was just like many of you in that I gave little thought to the infrastructure that Lakehaven Utility District had to plan and construct in order to accommodate our population expansion. I have spent the last



Redondo Wastewater Treatment Plant

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couple of months getting an education at the District. It is almost like being a kid in a candy store. I jumped at the chance to visit the Howard Hanson Dam and see the amount of work that has been completed there to fix the potential problems that they faced. It is really encouraging to know how much better things are there and to know that our Second Supply Water System is now more secure.

In my visits to different fresh water wellheads that supply our drinking water, I have been introduced to lift stations that pump wastewater uphill to the main pipes that flow to the treatment plants. I toured the District's two treatment plants that treat the wastewater before returning clean water back into Puget Sound (See the picture of the Redondo Wastewater Treatment Plant on the front of this newsletter and Lakota below).

The professionalism and expertise of the Lakehaven Utility District employees has impressed me as I have been visiting the facilities. The District and its people not only have to ensure that the system we have in place today functions at the highest level, but that we are planning and preparing for the needs of the District's customers over the next five, ten, or twenty years. I recently attended the District's annual Employee Rewards Program meeting for the District and as I looked around

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the room and saw the number of employees who have ten, fifteen, twenty or more years of service to the District, I realized we have the right people, at the right time, with the right experience to help us be prepared for the future needs of the Lakehaven Utility District.



Lakota Wastewater Treatment Plant

PACIFIC HIGHWAY SOUTH – HIGH OCCUPANCY VEHICLE (HOV) LANE PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

The sights and sounds of construction equipment, and construction signs, flaggers, and lane revisions have signaled start-up of the City of Federal Way's \$13.2 M project to improve Pacific Highway South (PHS) from S. 312th Street to Dash Point Road - 18th Avenue South. Work began July 12, 2010, and is expected to continue through October 2011, to widen PHS to seven lanes, including an HOV lane in each direction, landscaped median and sidewalks.

While the completed project will provide aesthetic and functional surface improvements for the traveling public, the City of Federal Way has partnered with Lakehaven, Qwest, Comcast, and Puget Sound Energy for the removal, relocation, and adjustments of utilities, and undergrounding of overhead services necessary to accommodate the street improvements. Lakehaven will be investing \$1.3 M to remove more

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than 6,500 feet of active and out-of-service water mains, install nearly 4,000-ft. of new water main, relocate and upgrade 15 water services and 9 fire hydrants, partially reconstruct 13 sewer manholes, and perform other related work.

During the past four months, the primary focus has been on completing the sub-surface utility work and the retaining walls on the east side of PHS. Work affecting water service customers on the east side of PHS is now complete.

Lakehaven appreciates the patience and understanding of all of its customers who have been or will be affected by this improvement project. Please call the Project Hotline, (253) 269-1355, if there are comments, questions or concerns regarding the project.

HUBER PRESSING TEST UNIT AT LAKOTA WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

The District is testing belt press equipment to replace the current belt presses at the Lakota Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP). The presses are used to “squeeze” water out of bio-solids from the digesters. The de-watered solids are then transported across the mountains for direct application to farm land in Eastern Washington. The replacement of the current presses is necessary as age and wear have limited the ability of the current presses to reduce water content in the bio solids. In addition to the increasing cost of additional maintenance to the current equipment, hauling bio-solids with higher water content increases transportation costs.

The Operations Staff at the Lakota WWTP are currently running trials on alternative techniques and equipment to dewater the bio-solids. The units tested to date have proved to almost double the dryness of the bio-solids. It is anticipated that when a decision is made on the appropriate system and the new equipment is selected for installation, the operational cost savings will pay for the equipment in short order.

OASIS PROJECT UPDATE

The District has completed the 4th year of Phase I development of an aquifer storage and recovery project titled “OASIS”, which stands for Optimization of Aquifer Storage for Increased Supply. During 2010, the District finished the drilling and construction of monitoring Well 35M, which is designed to study groundwater leakage relationships between the upper level Redondo-Milton Channel Aquifer and the lower level Mirror Lake Aquifer. In 2011 a similar monitoring well (Well 36M) will also be completed for the same purpose along the western boundary of the Mirror Lake Aquifer.

Also during 2010, design specifications were developed for drilling Well 30T as a test well to provide clarification of the hydraulic relationship along the southern boundary of the Mirror Lake Aquifer and to monitor water level responses to aquifer storage and recovery operations at this location. The invitation

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to bid for the drilling of Well 30T (to an estimated depth of 750 feet) was advertised in December of 2010 and the well is scheduled to be drilled and completed in 2011.

KIDS' CORNER CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

Each year at Christmas, the Lakehaven Utility District employees hold an auction for the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) to help families in need pay their water/sewer bills through the Multi-Service Center (MSC). This year the employees raised \$905! Last year, MSC was able to help 106 households because of this program. Customers may donate when they pay their water/sewer bill.



Seahawks Basket Auction Item
Customer Assistance Program

Your Board of Commissioners

Don Miller - President
Ron Nowicki - Vice President
Len Englund - Secretary
Chuck Gibson - Commissioner
Tim McClain - 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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