



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

July - August 2011

Commissioner's Corner

Chuck Gibson



I am writing this a few days before the summer solstice, the period of maximum daylight during the year and, at least normally, the beginning of our dry season. In Western Washington, the dry season usually begins in June and lasts through September. You don't have to be a weather scientist to recognize that both this year and last year were not "normal" weather years. This spring was mostly cool and wet, as was last summer. As you would expect, water use throughout the District was substantially lower during the periods when compared to seasonal averages. Despite the slow start to the season, I am hopeful that we will be enjoying a warm and sunny summer as you read this.

If we have a warm, dry summer, it will mean we need to water our lawns and gardens. While the District encourages customers to conserve water and not be wasteful, the foresight and planning from many years ago has enabled us to secure sufficient water resource to permit unrestricted water use all year round. The experts recommend that you water your lawn and garden with a single soaking a week of about one inch of water. The best time to water is either in the evening or early morning to minimize evaporative loss. The deep watering encourages deep root growth and conserves water. If the temperatures go above normal, then additional watering may be needed. You may want to visit our conservation garden to learn about low-water landscaping.

Even though the District has sufficient resource to permit unrestricted use year round, we want our customers not to be wasteful of the resource. One of the more common, yet avoidable, ways water is wasted is through leaks. These occur from time to time in both our distribution system and in customer plumbing systems. The District has an active program to keep the District distribution system leaks to a minimum and we encourage customers to be vigilant with their home systems. As a reminder, customers are responsible for the water system on the property side of the meter and thus any leaks that occur on the customer side of the meter are the responsibility of the customer.

Be aware of leaks that can happen in toilets and dripping faucets. While they may seem small, they can waste a tremendous amount of water over time. If you have a question about whether a leak is occurring,

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Commissioner

Charles I. Gibson
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Timothy A. McClain
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Donald L.P. Miller
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Ronald E. Nowicki
Commissioner



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it is recommended that you turn off all fixtures and look at the water meter. If the small wheel in the meter is turning, it is likely that there is a leak. Large leaks are more likely to be evidenced by wet spots on the property, wet crawl spaces or by a significant drop in water pressure. If you find a significant leak in your system, it is recommended that you turn off the water at the meter and have the leak fixed as soon as you can. The District has a policy of reducing the bill for the leaked volume of water by 50% in cases where the leak is repaired promptly. The volume of the leak is determined by subtracting the normal volume per billing cycle from the volume recorded during the period of the leak. If you have questions, contact the District customer service office.

Thanks for your interest and here's to a great summer!

2011 POSTER CONTEST WINNERS



1st Row: Vivia Z., Alyssa B., Achalay R., Quentin B., Carrie N., Grace S., Nancy C., Victoria F., & Hailey P.
2nd Row: Director S. Smith, Sierra J., Brianna M., Dianna N., Trisha J., Councilmember Jack Dovey, & Commissioner Ron Nowicki
3rd Row: Commissioner Chuck Gibson, Commissioner Len Englund, Commissioner Don Miller, & Mayor Skip Priest

The Lakehaven Utility District presented awards to local elementary students participating in its 15th Annual Water

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Conservation Poster Contest at the District's June 9th Board meeting. The purpose of the contest is to help children understand the importance of water conservation through the development of posters containing a water conservation message. The artwork is featured each year in the District's water conservation calendar.

Approximately 75 members of the community, including students, parents, teachers, principals, Federal Way Schools Director Suzanne Smith, Federal Way Mayor Skip Priest, and Federal Way Council Member Jack Dovey, attended the District's Board meeting on June 9, 2011 where the poster contest winners for the 2012 Water Conservation Calendars were announced. The 13 posters selected for the calendar were picked from 584 posters submitted from various elementary schools in the area.

Board President Ron Nowicki presented the awards. Commissioners Don Miller, Len Englund and Chuck Gibson were also in attendance.

The winning students (and the schools they attend) are: Quentin B., Spring Valley Montessori; Vivia Z., Camelot; Achalay R. and Brianna M., Mirror Lake; Nancy C. and Sierra J., Sherwood Forest; Tricia J., Lake Grove; Alyssa B. and Victoria F., Panther Lake; Grace S. and Carrie N., Silver Lake; Hailey P., Lake Dolloff; and Dianna N., 1st Place winner from Wildwood.

A special thank you goes to Wild Waves, Shirtz to Go, South King Fire and Rescue, Heritage Bank, Wal-Mart, Big 5 Sporting Goods, and Woodstone Credit Union for their exceptionally generous donations to the contest winners.



L-R: Teacher Patrick Cho, Commissioner Don Miller, Commissioner Chuck Gibson, Commissioner Len Englund and President Ron Nowicki, with 1st Place Winner Dianna.

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READING METERS/LEAKS

Meter Reading:

Lakehaven Utility District's Field Division staff performs meter reading throughout the District. In the two-month billing cycle, staff reads over 32,000 meters. This equals an average of 750 meter readings per day! Since each meter must be visually inspected to determine the precise meter count, it is very important for our staff to have clear access to the meters. Maintaining the area around the meter to keep it clear of brush and obstacles allows easy access and is very much appreciated.



Leaks:

Leaks that occur in the service line from the meter to your home, as well as those that originate inside your home, can create large water bills. It is important to be aware of any abnormal standing or running water around your property. This could be a sign of a leak. Lakehaven meters have a built in leak detector which can help you detect small leaks. These can be seen in the face/top of the meter and appears as a small triangle. If no water is being used, the triangle should not be moving. If you have turned off all faucets and appliances that use water in your home and the triangle moves, you may have a leak. This leak detector should be checked by you a couple of times per year since most leaks start off small. Checking the detector could save you from an expensive water bill and damage to your home and property.

ENTERING A DISTRICT BUILDING

Lakehaven Utility District requests that you minimize your use of scented products so that they are not perceptible to others while in any District building. This request is intended to provide a comfortable and healthy environment for everyone.

Leonard D. England
Commissioner

Charles I. Gibson
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Your Board of Commissioners

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