



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

March – April 2012



COMMISSIONERS, SAFETY COMMITTEE AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The above pictured individuals toured the State of Washington's Emergency Management Center at Camp Murray in November 2011. The District continually prepares for disasters, including severe weather storms and earthquakes.

Commissioner's Corner

Don Miller



SPRING GREETINGS!

Leonard D. Englund
Commissioner

Charles I. Gibson
Commissioner

Timothy A. McClain
Commissioner

Donald L.P. Miller
Commissioner

Ronald E. Nowicki
Commissioner



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We survived the big snow and ice freeze, along with the resulting power outages, that hit our area in January. Because of emergency planning, equipment was available and District employees were well prepared to maintain your water and sewer operations at regular levels. The freezing conditions required long hours by our dedicated staff and we very much appreciate the efforts made to keep your service going. On a personal note, it was a pleasure to find that a drink of cold water was still available during the storm by simply turning on the tap.

This snow and ice event has been formally declared a disaster in King County. With the extra cost of emergency work needed to provide service, the District will pursue a reimbursement of approximately \$200,000 from federal and state funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

On another topic, the District will be celebrating its 75th anniversary soon. Lakehaven Utility District is comprised of a number of smaller water companies, water districts, and sewer districts that merged over the years. From a very humble beginning, this combination of merged agencies has now formed one of the largest water/sewer districts in the state.

As you will notice from the picture on the front page of this newsletter, members of the District's Safety and Emergency Management Committees visited the Washington State Emergency Management Center at Camp Murray. Camp Murray, which is located near Fort Lewis, is the headquarters for emergency management operations in this state. Field trips such as these help train staff to prepare for the kinds of emergencies we just experienced.

On the back page of this issue, you will notice a picture of elementary students at the annual water festival. The festival is held at Green River Community College in March of each year. This year, the District will sponsor 162 students from the Federal Way Public School District to learn about the science and biology of water. I have attended this event as an observer in the past and have enjoyed the enthusiasm of the young students. Hopefully some of them will want to work in the water field some day.

Finally, it is spring and time to plant your gardens. Be sure to call "811" before you dig in areas where underground utilities might be present to ensure that you do not strike an underground line. My wife, Patti, and I enjoy our yard and we are working to make 2012 a great production year for berries, fruits, and vegetables. We hope you share in the simple pleasures of home gardening.

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WHAT IS A CLOSED PLUMBING SYSTEM?

Lakehaven Utility District installs check valves in water meter boxes when new water service lines are installed, repaired, or replaced. This is done to protect the public water distribution system from potential contamination caused by backflow from a customer service line. Locating a check valve at the meter, or a pressure reducing valve, or backflow assembly device on the water service line (between the meter and the building), creates a “closed plumbing system” where water flows into the customer’s building, but will not flow (in reverse) back into the public water main. It is not uncommon to have any one of these devices, which is why plumbing codes require thermal expansion tanks to protect private plumbing systems. In a closed plumbing system, heated water from a customer’s hot water



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tank expands, creating higher water pressure within the plumbing system when water is not in use and fixtures are closed. If thermal expansion from a hot water tank is not controlled, it can cause damage or reduce the life of household plumbing, fixtures, and appliances. The increased water pressure caused by thermal expansion is controlled in a closed plumbing system by the installation of a “thermal expansion tank” on the cold water supply to the hot water heater. If customers are not sure that their water system is properly protected from thermal expansion, Lakehaven Utility District strongly encourages customers to seek advice from a licensed plumber who can determine if their plumbing system is up to code. Customers may also call Chris Zoepfl (Cross Connection Control Manager) at (253) 946-5427 if they have additional questions related to this issue.



PAYING YOUR BILL

Lakehaven customers have the option of paying their water and sewer bills online or by phone. Online payments can be made at www.lakehaven.org. To access this function, click the “Pay Your Bill Online” tab. You can make a one-time payment from your credit card, debit card, or checking or savings account. It is also possible to schedule future payments to be deducted automatically from a card or account.

Payments can be made over the phone to our 24 hour automated payment system. The telephone number is 1-877-307-1635.

Payments are also accepted from 8:00am to 4:30pm at the Lakehaven Utility District Administration Building located at 31627 1st Ave South in Federal Way. For your convenience, a drop box is located in the island between the District's office and the Fire Station.

If you have any questions or need assistance in paying your bill, please contact our Customer Services Department, at 253-941-1516.

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WINTER STORM EVENT

As we well remember, the January 2012 snow and ice storm created power outages throughout much of the Puget Sound region. During this event, most of the District's facilities suffered power loss. In some areas, the power outages lasted for several days. Because the water and sewer systems rely on electric pumps to move water and sewage flows throughout the respective systems, the loss of electricity can quickly lead to a curtailment of water and sewer services. With the use of both portable and on-site generators, the District was able to maintain full service throughout the service area during the outages. Many members of our dedicated staff worked rotating twelve-hour shifts throughout the duration of the power outages. This was necessary to make sure that fuel was delivered to the on-site generators and that portable generators were moved to the various pump stations not equipped with on-site generators ahead of any overflows. Emergency planning and the dedication of these employees truly made the difference!



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KID'S CORNER - ANNUAL WATER FESTIVAL



Fourth and fifth grade students from the Federal Way School District learn about the life cycle of a salmon by playing a salmon survivor game at the South King County Regional Water Festival. This festival is held at Green River Community College in March of each year and is organized by the Cities of Kent and Auburn, Lakehaven Utility District and Soos Creek Water and Sewer. The festival provides the students with an opportunity to learn about clean water and its importance to all of us.

SALMON SURVIVOR GAME

Your Board of Commissioners

Len Englund - President
Chuck Gibson - Vice President
Tim McClain - 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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