



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 2013

Commissioner's Corner

Chuck Gibson



I'm writing this edition of the Commissioner Corner in mid-February at a time of some mild and relatively dry weather. A few crocuses have bloomed and other late winter/early spring blooming plants are putting out their flowers. We will soon be into spring and, I'm sure, lots of rain. As the saying goes "April showers bring May flowers". For the sewer system, however, rain also brings a significant increase in what is known as Inflow and Infiltration (or "I/I"). I/I occurs as water enters the sewer system through sources other than permitted domestic and business connections. These sources include: leaking manholes lids, roof and storm drains that are illegally connected to the sewer system and groundwater leakage into the side sewers and mains caused by cracks, pipe wall deterioration and loose connections.

The District systematically inspects sewer trunk lines and manholes to prevent I/I in those facilities. The major source of I/I is groundwater that enters the system through aging and deteriorating residential side sewers. This occurs most often in older side sewers constructed of concrete pipe. Side sewers often degrade over time from pipe erosion or cracks that develop due to soil settling and/or root intrusion. When the rains saturate the surrounding soil, water is forced into the pipes. Treating this additional water increases system operating costs and can also cause the wastewater plants to come up against hydraulic operating limits imposed by permit.

When a plant nears its hydraulic operating limit, the District is required to study ways to reduce the load on the plant or, if load cannot be reduced, expand the plant to handle the higher loads. Expanding wastewater treatment plant costs tens of millions of dollars, making it prudent to look for other solutions to address I/I.

Because of the high level of I/I we experience during our seasonal wet periods, Lakehaven's wastewater treatment plants are pushing up against their rated hydraulic capacities. The problem is more acute in the areas that flow to the Redondo Treatment Plant. We are evaluating the situation to determine where the I/I is occurring and what options exist for reducing it. These studies will be conducted over the next few

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years.

Watching the problems on the cruise ship, Carnival Triumph, I am reminded how much we count on uninterrupted water and sewer service in our daily lives. I have lived in the District's service area for over 20 years and have never been disappointed when I turned on the tap or flushed the toilet. The District takes pride in keeping both the water and sewers service operating as close to 100% of the time as feasible. There are occasions when service is interrupted because of broken mains or unexpected pump failures, but these are few and far between. When service is disrupted, the staff responds quickly and is able to fix most problems within hours.

I appreciate our dedicated staff that is willing to come out at any hour and in any weather to keep the water and sewer service operating for our customers. The next time you see a Lakehaven employee you might consider thanking them for their efforts and fine work.



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WATER AND SEWER RATES

The District’s Board of Commissioners establishes the monthly rates that you pay for water and sewer service. The Board is very mindful of the impact that rate increases have on customers and, consequently, limits increases to those that are absolutely necessary to manage and operate the systems in a prudent fashion. With this approach, the District has among the lowest water and sewer rates in the region. The following tables show the bi-monthly water and sewer rates of various agencies in the local region:

Water Rate Comparison

Agency	Rates
City of Seattle*	\$108.00
Covington Water District*	103.85
City of Kirkland	92.88
City of Kent	91.75
Highline Water District*	90.80
City of Auburn	81.10
City of Tukwila*	74.22
Soos Creek Water/Sewer District	65.95
City of Sumner	65.30
City of Tacoma	61.64
City of Poulsbo*	59.04
Lakehaven Utility District (2013)#	50.46
City of Puyallup*	47.02
Lakewood Water District	33.84

Estimates are based on winter rates, 18 ccf (13,500 gallons) bi-monthly consumption

*Higher rates charged for summer usage (June 1 to Sept 30)

#Does not include any capacity rental charges

Sewer Rate Comparison

Agency	Rates
City of Seattle	\$209.70
City of Sumner	179.05
City of Kirkland	162.18
City of Poulsbo	173.28
City of Tukwila	125.78
City of Auburn	121.62
City of Puyallup	117.06

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Soos Creek Water/Sewer District	105.90
City of Tacoma	99.76
Pierce County	83.72
Lakehaven Utility District (2013)#	67.98
Midway Sewer District	48.00

Estimates are based on winter rates, 18 ccf (13,500 gallons) bi-monthly consumption
#Does not include any capacity rental charges

PUMP STATION 22 STORAGE

Lakehaven will be constructing improvements to its sewer Pump Station 22 to increase its reliability and to protect the nearby Hylebos wetland area. The 38-year old station, located along South 348th Street near St. Francis Hospital, services a large area north of South 348th Street between 1st Avenue South and Interstate 5 up to about South 331st Street and collects flows from the south via another pump station. The first project will add an emergency storage facility to increase the storage capacity of the system in the event of a power or mechanical failure at the pump station. Currently, the system's storage capacity provides very little time for staff to respond in the event of an emergency. The new emergency storage facility will consist of approximately 250 linear feet of 60-inch diameter pipe installed in S. 348th Street near 6th Ave S. The project will be constructed at night to reduce the traffic impacts and is expected to be completed in the spring of 2013. The additional storage will increase the available emergency response time to approximately one hour. Future improvements related to Pump Station 22 include rerouting flows coming from the south away from Pump Station 22 and making improvements to its electrical system.

CLEAN AUDIT

The District received a clean report for the recently completed audit of year 2011. The audit, performed annually by the Washington State Auditor's Office, examines the District's financial statements and its compliance with legal regulations and internal policies. The current report continues the District's long record of having no audit findings.

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KIDS' CORNER - ANNUAL WATER FESTIVAL



Commissioners Gibson and Miller visit the Water Festival at Green River Community College.

In March of each year the cities of Kent and Auburn, Lakehaven Utility District and Soos Creek Water and Sewer organize a water festival for 4th and 5th grade students at Green River Community College. The agencies pay \$11 per student from their service area attending the event. The festival provides the students with a fun field trip and an opportunity to learn about clean water and its importance to all of us.

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Your Board of Commissioners

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