



# 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](http://www.lakehaven.org)

May – June 2012

***COMMISSIONERS CHUCK GIBSON AND DON MILLER VISIT THE WATER FESTIVAL HELD AT GREEN RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE.***



The above picture is of Commissioner Gibson looking through a magnifying glass at Caddis Fly Larvae. The glass is held by a Wildwood Elementary Student.

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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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## Commissioner's Corner

Chuck Gibson



As I write this edition of the “Commissioner Corner” in mid-April, I am enjoying the nice weather that has finally arrived in the Puget Sound area. It seemed like the rains would never stop and below normal temperatures would continue until July. With the warmer and drier weather upon us, garden preparation and planting are in full swing. With all of the rain we had this year, lawn and garden watering seemed a long way from our thoughts. I would like to remind you that although Lakehaven Utility District has plenty of water to supply our customer’s needs, it is prudent not to waste water. If and when we get a prolonged stretch of dry weather, remember that lawns need about an inch of water a week and gardens can do well with drip systems that apply the water near the plants.

To encourage children to learn about good environmental stewardship and water conservation, the District sponsors the attendance of Federal Way School District students at the Water Festival held each year at Green River Community College. Students have the opportunity to hear several presentations and experience hands on activities that teach environmental stewardship. I attended some of the classes with Commissioner Miller. It was great to see the students’ excitement as they learned about the environment and ways that they can help make the planet healthier.

The Board of Commissioners has spent a significant amount of time this year reviewing the Capital Facilities Charge (CFC) for water and sewer service. The CFC is paid by customers when they hook into the water and/or sewer system and is the way property owners pay their share of the cost of existing infrastructure, i.e., water wells, water mains, sewer mains, sewer treatment facilities, and the cost of future facilities necessary to meet their needs. It will also be used to establish the capacity rental charge for customers using more capacity in the water and sewer systems than they purchased at the time of connection.

The objective of the Board is to be fair in sharing the cost of the major capital infrastructure between customers already hooked up to the water and sewer system and those new customers that use a share of the system expanded to meet future growth. To determine the appropriate charge requires a disciplined and thorough review of the cost of existing facilities, how they were paid for and capital facilities that are planned to be built in the next ten years. There are several methods that can be used to calculate a CFC. The Board wanted the method to be stable over time, have growth pay for growth, be explainable and legally defensible, maintain continuity with past charges, fit with the capacity rental charge program, and

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be equitable. While we have not finalized the charge as I write this article, we are confident that our updated CFC will meet these objectives.

If you have any questions about the CFC you can contact the District's Finance Director, Morgan Dennis. His telephone number and email address are on the District's web site, [www.lakehaven.org](http://www.lakehaven.org).

## **CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM**

Since the early 1980's, the state of Washington has required implementation of Cross-Connection Control Programs (CCCP) for water utilities that include administrative and technical procedures used to protect public water systems from contamination via cross-connections. A water system cross-connection is any actual or potential physical connection between a drinking water system and any non-potable substance such as a liquid, solid, or gas. Some common examples include connections to fire sprinkler systems, irrigation systems, hospitals, laboratories, processing facilities, but there are many others.

The District's Cross-Connection Control Program (CCCP) requires certain specific water system customers to install backflow prevention assemblies (per WAC 246-290-490) which must be tested (when installed and annually after that) to make sure they are working properly. A certified backflow assembly tester is required to do the annual tests and the District maintains records of these privately owned & tested backflow devices. In addition, the District is required to report this information to the Washington State Department of Health as an annual task of the CCCP.

In April 2012, the District's Board of Commissioners adopted revisions to the (CCCP) Policy and amended the Fees and Charges Resolution to establish a charge for non-compliance. Failure to comply with the District's (CCCP) requirements may result in an assessment of an administrative charge of \$100.00 per occurrence and/or suspension of water service. Water service will not resume until all charges are paid in full and the Cross-Connection Control Specialist has confirmed the backflow assembly has passed inspection. An occurrence is defined by the state as failure to install, test, repair, submit a report on a required backflow prevention assembly, and/or prevents site access to District staff for the purposes of confirming compliance with the District's (CCCP) requirements.

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If you have a backflow prevention assembly on your water system, please continue to help us protect your drinking water supply from cross-connections by annually testing your device.

## **CAPACITY RENTAL PROGRAM/LEAKS**

If you have a big yard with a lot of thirsty plants or like to keep a large lawn green all summer, you might notice additional charges on your bill for the higher water use after the Capacity Rental Program starts later this year. The Capacity Rental Program is intended to allocate a greater share of system costs to customers who consistently use a far greater amount of water or wastewater services than originally purchased at the time of connection.

Not all excess use is intentional. Leaks in service lines or plumbing systems can result in a loss of water equaling many times the normal bimonthly consumption. Even with our relatively low water rates, a water bill that is normally \$50 could easily become \$500, or more, unless the leak is found and fixed swiftly.

The Leak Adjustment Program is available to all District customers. After you have fixed the leak, the District will reduce your regular water bill by half the amount attributable to the leak. Additionally, where repairs are made, the rate for water leaked is capped at the second tier of our residential rates. None of the water from a repaired leak will impact your sewer bill or be included in the calculation of excess consumption charges under the Capacity Rental Program.

Please don't hesitate to contact the District if you think you may have experienced a water leak or want more information on the Leak Adjustment Program.

## **CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The District provides a Customer Assistance Program (CAP) for families seeking help with their utility bills. The Multi-Service Center administers this program and this fund typically helps 60 families per year. In recognition of this need, District employees and Commissioners donated \$4,300 and District ratepayers donated \$2,590 in 2011 to this program.

We need your help as the number of families needing assistance is growing! Please consider making a tax-deductible donation. Just fill-in the dollar amount in the appropriate space on your bill and send it with your water/sewer payment. You can

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also write a check payable to the Multi-Service Center at P.O. Box 23699, Federal Way, WA 98093 and indicate that it is for the Lakehaven Customer Assistance Program.

## **KIDS' CORNER - FATS, OILS, & GREASE (F.O.G.)**

A Saghalee Middle School student provides the first pour of grease into the cooking oil container at French Lake Park, located at 31531 First Avenue South.

Please be sure to dispose properly of oils, fats, and grease products to prevent causing a backup to your sewer system.



## **Community Events**

To learn about water-wise landscaping and water conservation, attend the

- Buds and Blooms Spring Garden Tour: May 12 & 13, 2012
- PowellsWood Story Telling Festival: July 13 & 14, 2012

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## *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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