



# 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 2014



305th St. Tank Gets a New Coat of Paint and Tank Mixer  
(Shown from left to right are Commissioner Tim McClain, General Manager John Bowman and Commissioner Don Miller)

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**Leonard D. Englund**  
Commissioner

**Charles I. Gibson**  
Commissioner

**Timothy A. McClain**  
Commissioner

**Donald L.P. Miller**  
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**Ronald E. Nowicki**  
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## Commissioner's Corner

Tim McClain



Having joined the Lakehaven Board in 2010, this, if memory serves me correctly, is the fifth time that I have had the opportunity to communicate with our many water and sewer customers through the Commissioner Corner. With five members on the Board, my turn to write the Commissioner Corner article for the bi-monthly Newsletter comes around every ten months. Like the other commissioners, I try and come up with a topic to write about that is both informative and, hopefully, interesting to our customers. Those who regularly read the Newsletter know that there are many utility projects going on at the District and we regularly feature information about them in the Newsletter. There are also a host of issues and topics of general interest in the water/sewer utility business that can serve to provide valuable information to customers. Even with these sources of subject matter, I must confess that I sometimes struggle to find a topic to write about that I think will be of interest to all of our customers.

The one topic that I know is of interest to all customers is the cost of water and sewer service. As a long time customer myself, I appreciate that it is easy to take the service for granted. I think it is safe to say that most customers of water utilities in the region are generally happy with the quality of the water they receive and satisfied with the reliability of the system that delivers it. The same can also be said about the quality and reliability of the sewer service provided to their homes and businesses. In fact, I have heard it said on more than one occasion that if water comes out of the tap when they turn it on, and, correspondingly, if the toilet flushes when the lever is pressed, that is all they need to know about their water and sewer service.

On a broader scale, I know from talking to others in the municipal utility business that we all take pride in our systems and believe that we provide first class service to our customers. While we at Lakehaven still believe that we are a cut above the others when it comes to service, we recognize that the one thing that objectively differentiates the service among the many cities, counties and water/sewer districts in this area that provide water and sewer service, is the rates that customers pay. Rates, quite simply, are a definitive benchmark to compare water and sewer service providers.

Lakehaven has always taken great pride in the low rates that we have been able to offer to our customers. Our low rates reflect many different factors. We are able to control our water costs to a large extent by owning our water supply system. Unlike many agencies in this area, we are not forced to

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buy water from the regional supply systems that dictate prices at the tap through their wholesale rates. On the sewer side, we treat almost all of the wastewater generated in our service area and are not sending it to the regional treatment systems that charge higher rates. It is also because of a history of making good investments in new and existing infrastructure and a willingness to use whatever financing means were available to keep costs to our customers down.

We recently put together a table comparing our water and sewer rates with the rates of neighboring jurisdictions, as well as some of the larger regional service providers. The table was too large to include in the Newsletter, so we included it as a separate insert to show you just where you stand with others in the region on your water and sewer bills. I truly hope you will take a few minutes to review it!

## **GREEN RIVER FILTRATION FACILITY**



Construction of the new Green River Filtration Facility continues to be on schedule and under budget (73% completed as of first April). The project's initial budget was estimated at \$215 million, but revised estimates show the construction may come in as \$180 million. The project supports many jobs and during the peak of construction, 150–200 construction workers were on site each day. Work will continue until substantial completion of the project occurs near the end of this year. Project funding has come from multiple sources.

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sources; including Public Works Trust Fund (PWTF) loans, State Revolving Fund (SRF) loans, Municipal Bond sales, and utility investments by the City of Tacoma, City of Kent, Covington Water District, and Lakehaven. Lakehaven's 11% share of the project mostly come from low-interest loans. When complete, the filtration facility will meet new national public health water treatment standards and improve water quality. Once operational testing of the new plant is complete, the plant will officially go on-line in early 2014. The facility will be able to treat 150 million gallons of drinking water per day, making it the largest water filtration plant in Washington.

## **CONGRATULATIONS TO SENATOR TRACEY EIDE**

To mark the occasion of the announcement that this would be her last term in the legislature, the District would like to pay tribute to Senator Tracey Eide for her distinguished career representing the residents of the 30th District in Olympia. In addition to being a tireless advocate for the citizens of this community, as well as an effective voice for the interests of all Washington residents, Tracey has worked hard to assist the District and other local agencies in this area to obtain funding on important local infrastructure projects. Thanks to her efforts, the funding we recently obtained on a large sewer project in downtown Federal Way will save our ratepayers a significant amount of money.

Thank you again Senator Eide and the best to you in the future!

## **TANK MIXER**

The District recently drained, sand blasted, and painted the interior of one of its 5 million gallons water tank located near 51st Ave South and South 305th Street. The new coating will protect the steel tank interior from corrosion for another twenty years or more. As part of our tank maintenance program, the District is also installing a small water mixer within the tanks to better maintain water quality. During the summer months, warm water can rise to the top of the tank and stagnate. The small mixer prevents this stagnation so that the water quality remains consistent and uniform throughout the year. The cover photo was taken within the 305th Street tank, showing off its new bright white finish and its new mixer.

Thank you again Senator Eide and the best to you in the future!

## **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT**

Starting July 1, 2014 you will be able to view the Lakehaven Utility District Annual Water Quality Report on-line at [www.lakehaven.org/docs/CCR-2013.pdf](http://www.lakehaven.org/docs/CCR-2013.pdf). This report contains

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important information about the source and quality of your drinking water. Please call (253) 946-5442 if you would like a paper report delivered to your home.

For more information about how Lakehaven Utility District maintains the safety of your drinking water and to view additional water quality information go to [www.lakehaven.org](http://www.lakehaven.org)

## **KID'S CORNER - ANNUAL WATER FESTIVAL**



The District sponsored 248 Federal Way 4th & 5th grade students at the 2014 Water Festival. Presenters at the Festival teach our students the importance of water conservation and how to become better stewards to safeguard the environment. This is a fun learning experience for the students and offers water conservation as part of their curriculum.

Federal Way elementary students participate in the Pond Dipping Event at Green River Community College

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## **Your Board of Commissioners**

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