



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

September - October 2013



2014 WATER CONSERVATION CALENDAR FIRST PLACE WINNER

Rhaya A. of Mark Twain Elementary Teacher: Mrs. Egan

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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Commissioner's Corner

Ron Nowicki



One of the questions we frequently hear as members of the Lakehaven Board of Commissioners is: “What is a water/sewer district”?

The answer starts with a brief explanation of the legal authority that allows the District to be your water and sewer service provider. The District’s authority to deliver water and sewer service is found in Chapter 57 of the Revised Code of Washington. Chapter 57 establishes, among other more specific powers, the authority for water/sewer districts to incorporate, to acquire improvements necessary for the operation of the water and sewer systems, and to adopt and collect rates and charges for the services provided.* Lakehaven is one of approximately 175 special purpose water/sewer districts operating in the State of Washington. You may find it interesting that there are nearly a hundred different types of special purpose districts in our state. These special purpose districts provide services ranging from weed and mosquito control to the ownership and management of convention centers and stadiums.

Providing water and sewer service to a residential population of nearly 120,000 customers, Lakehaven is one of the largest water/sewer districts in our state. The utility services we deliver to our residential customers are also provided to a large business community. The area we serve covers approximately 34 square miles and includes Federal Way, portions of Kent, Tacoma, Auburn, Pacific, Algona, Des Moines, Milton, and areas of unincorporated King and Pierce counties. The large size of the District is attributable to the fact that the municipal boundaries of the original water and sewer districts have been expanded significantly as a result of a number of mergers and annexations.

In establishing special purpose water/sewer districts, the state legislature created a unit of local government with limited purposes and narrow powers. Unlike cities and counties, which exercise general governmental authority, water/sewer districts exercise authority related, with limited exceptions, to the provision of water and sewer service only. We believe that these limitations help special districts provide focused and efficient service to their customers. The Lakehaven Board, comprised of five members that you have elected to represent you, provides direction only over the matter of the operation of the water and sewer systems. The rates and charges we collect can only be used to cover the cost of building and operating the water and sewer utilities. As a result of this focus, our rates are some of the lowest in the state. We do not have authority to levy a tax on our customers for the services we provide.

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One thing we have in common with the state, its agencies, and the many local general purpose jurisdictions in this state, is that we are audited annually by the Office of the State Auditor. The audits provide accountability and ensure that we meet financial and legal standards designed to protect the public. Thanks to the commitment of our professional staff, we have a long record of meeting, and in many instances, exceeding, these standards.

Thank you for the interest in your District and the opportunity to serve you!

*We do establish and bill for street light systems, however, the facilities are owned and maintained by Puget Sound Energy.

FEDERAL WAY DOWNTOWN SEWER TRUNK UPGRADE PROJECT

As part of this year's state budget, the legislature reallocated the balance of a \$2,500,000 grant that will allow Lakehaven to start upgrading a section of its existing 12-inch sewer line within the Federal Way Downtown Core to meet the future capacity needs. With a projected construction start date in January 2014, construction is expected to last through April of next year. Most construction work is anticipated to be done at night to minimize impacts to businesses. The planned first phase (highlighted in green) will replace approximately 6,000 linear feet of existing 12-inch gravity sewer main with a larger 30-inch collection system. Future phases of the project will be completed once remaining funding has been secured (shown as a dotted red line). The overall project is estimated to cost approximately \$6,700,000.

If you have any questions related to this project, please feel free to contact Tim Osborne, Project Manager at (253)945-1582 or tosborne@lakehaven.org.



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LAKOTA AND REDONDO WWTP AWARDS

Thanks to the dedicated staff at our wastewater treatment plants, the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) has once again awarded the Lakota and Redondo Wastewater Treatment Plants with its Outstanding Performance Awards. Only one-third of the wastewater treatment plants in Washington State qualified to receive this award in 2012.

In addition, each plant qualified for awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agency (NACWA). Lakota received a Platinum Award for five straight years of complete and consistent compliance with its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, while the Redondo plant received another Gold Award for 2012.

NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY OCTOBER 26, 2013

A significant number of medicines go unused or expire. Abuse of medicines, including prescription drugs and cough remedies, is a growing problem. Medicines flushed down the toilet end up in the environment. The preferred method to dispose of unused medicines is through a take-back program. On October 26, the Drug Enforcement Administration will sponsor an annual take-back event. In addition, several Group Health, Bartell Drugs, and law enforcement agencies will accept unused medicines throughout the year. Check the following websites for more information.

<http://www.takebackyourmeds.org/>

http://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/drug_disposal/takeback/

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KIDS' CORNER - CAMELOT'S GREEN FESTIVAL



Lakehaven Utility District participated in the first ever Green Festival held at Camelot Elementary School. District Commissioners provided students and their parents with water saving devices and water conservation information.

The Green Festival was well attended and helped to educate and encourage our community to recycle, compost and conserve water.

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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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