



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

January - February 2006

Commissioner's Corner

Ed Stewart



I want to take this opportunity to wish all of our customers the best for 2006. Having just completed an exciting and eventful 2005, during which I was privileged to serve as President of the Board of Commissioners for the first time, we look forward to building on progress that was made in the development and operation of the water and sewer utility systems last year.

The most noteworthy item in 2005 was, undoubtedly, the delivery of water from the completed Second Supply Pipeline. When the water began flowing into our distribution system in November, it marked the successful culmination of efforts to bring a sustainable supply of water from a source outside of the groundwater system to our customers. The District's commitment to the project began more than twenty years ago. Although the project was not inexpensive (our share alone will be over forty three million dollars), the water will end up being a bargain as the sources of additional supply in this region become more and more limited. When all of the system improvements are fully operational, the additional supply from this source will sustain demand well into the current century.

I was fortunate to attend the dedication of this project held at the City of Tacoma's Utility Headquarters in November. The presentation brought into clear focus the amount of effort that went into the planning of this project. The fact that the application for the water right, which gives the City the authority to withdraw the water that goes into the pipeline, was submitted in 1933 is testimony itself to the perseverance of City of Tacoma officials. In addition to the incredible task of designing a water diversion and transmission facility of this complexity and magnitude, a tremendous amount of effort and money went into the planning and development of environmental enhancements to the river system and other mitigation measures undertaken in cooperation with regulatory agencies and tribal interests alike.

The District is extremely indebted to the staff and elected officials of the City of Tacoma for their capable stewardship of this project. The other partners in the project, the Covington Water District and the City of Kent, also deserve credit for the success of this enormous public works project. Of course, our own staff and the commissioners that have served on the Board over the last twenty years deserve recognition as well. This was a team effort and the success of the project should be a source of pride for all of us that share this water for many years to come.

The Lakota Sludge Dryer Project was one of the larger sewer system projects underway at the District in 2005. The project is proceeding and we look forward to the installation of the dryer at the Lakota Treatment Plant in 2006. The dried bio-solids that will be produced by the sludge dryer will make a safe and effective compost product for your lawn and gardens. We will have more information on the compost and its availability as the project draws nearer to completion.

The Board and staff at the District look forward to continuing to find ways to better serve our customers in 2006. We appreciate your input and invite you to attend our board meetings. For more information on the District, log on to our website at www.lakehaven.org.

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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Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your commissioner!

WATER RATE INCREASE

Noting the rising cost of doing business and the lack of any increase in water rates since 1999, the Board of Commissioners approved a 3% increase in water rates. Sewer rates will remain the same in 2006.

For new water system connections, meter installation charges will rise slightly in 2006, however the Capital Facility Charge for a residential equivalent of water service will be reduced. The sewer system Capital Facility Charge will increase by a small amount. The Capital Facility Charges reflect pro rata shares of existing and future water and sewer system facilities.

WINTERIZE YOUR WATER PIPES

Prepare your plumbing (outside and inside) for freezing weather. Know what to do if your pipes freeze or break. The picture shown here is of an outside faucet insulator that can be purchased at any hardware store. It can be used to help keep your outside pipes from freezing and possibly breaking.



OUTSIDE PLUMBING:

- Caulk around pipes where they enter the house: Cut wood or Styrofoam blocks to fit vent openings.
- Protect outside pipes and faucets: In some homes, the outside faucet has a separate shut-off in the basement. If you have a separate valve for outside faucets, shut it off. Then go outside and turn on all the faucets to drain water in the lines. Leave the outside faucets on while you go back and check your outside shut-off valve for a small brass plug or cap on the valve. Turn this plug far enough that water drains from the valve. Then, tighten the plug back and turn off all the outside faucets.
- Wrap outside faucets or hose bibs: Do this if you don't have a separate valve to turn off outside faucets. (Also, remember to disconnect garden hoses.) Use newspaper or rags covered with plastic, fiberglass or molded foam insulating covers to wrap the faucet.

WHAT TO DO WHEN PIPES BREAK

- Shut off your water and the water heater: If you are unable to find the shut-off valve, or have water leaking in the house from a broken pipe and cannot shut off the meter, we can help. Call our 24-hour emergency number 253-941-1516 for assistance.
- Repair of a broken pipe on the customer side of the meter is the customer's responsibility. To repair the broken pipe, you may want to call a plumber.

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GREASE IN SEWER LINES

One of the major causes of blocked drain pipes inside and outside the home is grease build-up. Grease from products such as cooking oil, hamburger and bacon drippings when dumped down the drain accumulates over a period of time, solidifies in the pipe and can eventually block the side sewer out of your home. This can be avoided and is an unnecessary expense to you, the homeowner, when precautions can be taken. This is important because a side sewer connects the home to the sewer main line. A grease plug in the side sewer between the home and the sewer main line is the homeowner's responsibility.

In order to avoid a sewer back-up in your home, grease should never be dumped in a toilet or down a drain. Pots and pans should be wiped clean prior to washing in a sink or dishwasher. Grease can be stored in a container and disposed of properly. One method of disposal is to put grease in a can, freeze it, and then throw it out with your normal garbage.

CUSTOMER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Thanks to the generosity of Lakehaven's ratepayers and employees, the Multi-Service Center received \$8,279.36 in 2005 to assist the less fortunate in our community. Over 87 families received help in paying their water and sewer bills.

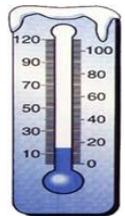
District employees donated items and held a silent auction to raise money while ratepayers paid a little extra on their bills to help with this worthy cause. The money donations included anything from a few cents to several dollars. It all added up to help those in need.

In addition, District Ratepayers and employees filled several barrels with food for the Food Bank at the Multi-Service Center.

KIDS CORNER

When the weather is below freezing, do not play on a frozen lake. The water may appear to be frozen near the shore, but may not be solid enough in the middle of the lake to support your weight.

Sledding and ice skating are fun winter activities, but please make sure you do so safely.



TIPS TO SAVE & CONSERVE WATER

- Fix leaky faucets and toilets promptly. If the toilet flapper valve leaks, it's an easy problem to fix.
- Run full loads in the washing machine and the dishwasher.
- Replace older toilets with new ultra low-efficient models which use only 1.5 gallons per flush.
- Keep a bottle of drinking water in your refrigerator.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **2006 Water Conservation Calendar is available.**
- **Food Bank Barrel available in Main Office for donations during the holidays.**

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Your Board of Commissioners

Beverly J. Tweddle - President

Don Miller - Vice President

Tom Jovanovich - Secretary

Dick Mayer - Commissioner

Ed Stewart - Commissioner

Regular Board of Commissioners meetings are held at:
Lakehaven Center
31531 First Ave. S.
Federal Way at 6 p.m.

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