



# SKY LINES

[www.skywayws.org](http://www.skywayws.org)

NOVEMBER 2015

## Capital Improvement Program (CIP)



We're pleased to report that except for minor shoulder cleanup and joint sealing, the **South 126<sup>th</sup> Water Main Replacement** project is complete. This project included approximately 1,100 lineal feet of new 8-inch diameter water main designed to improve system reliability and water quality.

Work is expected to begin soon on the District's **Sanitary Sewer System Small Works Repairs** project. This project includes sewer pipe and manhole repair work at six locations within the District.

Inquiring minds are asking: How and when do water and sewer pipes get repaired or replaced in the District? Why does one project get constructed before another? When will work get done in my neighborhood? These are good questions!!

Each year District staff, with the assistance of engineering and financial

consultants, look at the age and condition of District facilities (water and sewer pipes, pump stations, lift stations, reservoirs, water treatment systems, hydrants, manholes, meters, pressure reducing valve stations, etc.) and identify those facilities in need of work. They review the Districts financial situation; identify available grants, loans and other funding options; develop a project list that is prioritized based on the risks and benefits of each project; and evaluate the impact that construction of the projects will have on water and sewer rates.

The project program and rate schedule are reviewed by the Board of Commissioners to confirm that the construction program balances their obligation to maintain your vital water and sewer facilities against the cost to District customers. **The District is funded by and operates on customer rates alone; it receives no tax revenue.**



## Season's Greetings

Warmest wishes from all of us here at Skyway Water and Sewer District this holiday season and the coming New Year.

We want to thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve you.



## What's This?

By the time you receive this newsletter, a new glass window will have been installed in the lobby of the District office that includes a convenient pass through for payments and receipts. We have long enjoyed the convenience of a large open front counter and the friendly face-to-face interaction with our customers. However, the reality of our times has prompted us to make this change. We will still be able to give you the same prompt, courteous service as always while providing our staff with a safer work environment.



## We are on Twitter!

The District continuously looks at ways to improve the quality and efficiency of our work, and communication with our customers is a key part of our business. To expand our ability to bring you the most current information and to quickly reach you during an emergency, Skyway is now on Twitter! We will continue to be easily reachable in-person or by phone during office hours. You may also contact us by email or visit our website at [skywayws.org](http://skywayws.org) anytime, 24/7.



follow @skywayws on  
**twitter**

## Burglars Pose as Construction Workers

**Y**ou may have seen reports in the news recently about men posing as construction workers who pushed their way into a South Seattle home. Luckily, the homeowner was not hurt, only scared. The area served by Skyway Water and Sewer District is a close knit community where neighbors know one another. However, there are those who may try to take advantage of you, and we encourage you to please be alert.

So, how can you tell if a person is truly a Skyway Water and Sewer District employee? Our field technicians:

- **Drive vehicles with District logos, displaying state-exempt license plates**
- **Carry identification and usually wear uniforms**
- **Will never ask to enter a home without calling for a prior appointment**
- **Will provide a business card on request**



What if I receive a phone call asking for immediate payment or else my water will be turned off? The District does not initiate calls to customers demanding immediate payment. District customers are notified by mail of any pending service interruption due to non-payment. Also, the District does not ask for social security numbers for any District sponsored rate discount programs.

If you receive a suspicious call or a visit from someone posing as a District employee, you are encouraged to report it to the King County Sheriff's Office immediately and notify the District. We CARE about our customers and want to protect you from becoming victims of a scam, identity theft, or worse.

## Welcome Fire Chief Clow

King County Fire District 20 Board of Commissioners unanimously approved the appointment of Joseph Clow as Fire Chief during a special meeting August 27, 2015. Clow is the former Fire Chief of King County Fire District 28 (Enumclaw), a district similar to District 20 with a combination of career and volunteer firefighters, responding to 2,000 plus calls a year, serving a population of 18,000 and an annual budget of \$2.8 million dollars.

He also has experience as the Fire Chief of the City of Fond

du Lac Fire and Rescue in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin and Town of Bedford Fire Department in New Hampshire. He began his fire service career in Bettendorf, Iowa in 1980. He is married to his wife Sue and has two grown children Anna and Paul.

"I liked the aspect that the Fire Chief would be involved in the community. Don't be surprised if I show up on the engine to a call," Clow said



**SkyWest  
Tool  
Library**

**Sharing,  
Caring,  
Teaching,  
Learning!**

To learn more or volunteer to help start a tool library in Skyway, please join us at **6:00 PM** on the **4<sup>th</sup> Thursday** of the month (except holidays) at the Skyway Water and Sewer District office.

-Jon Ault &  
Preston Horne-Brine



## Keep FOG and other STUFF Out of the Sewer

If you attended the Skyway/West Hill Health and Safety Fair in August, we hope you visited our booth to get useful information on your water and sewer service. We would like to share some of that information with you again.

The holidays are fast approaching and often include sharing and enjoying all kinds of wonderful food -- delicious turkeys, beef roasts, ham, gravies, custards, candies and all kinds of dessert!! When preparing your favorite holiday recipes, **please** remember to keep fats, oils and greases (**FOG**) out of your kitchen sink drain! While that morning fog outside seems to disappear like magic, the holiday FOG from cooking can block sewer lines and cause horrible backups that can damage your home. Here are some helpful hints to help prevent sewer overflows:

- **Never** pour grease down sink drains! Or any other household drain, including the toilet.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or trash for disposal.
- Wipe down greasy pans with paper towels prior to washing.
- Put strainers into your sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids.
- Tell your children, friends and neighbors to help keep grease out of the drains and sewers.



In addition to FOG, there are other things that should not go into the sewer, especially not down your toilet. The label might say "flushable", but disposable wipes, cleaning pads, and cotton swabs can clog sewer lines and damage pumps and other equipment. Not only can these problems cause sewage overflows into homes, businesses and local waterways, but they are expensive to fix. So, please when disposing of "flushables", think TRASH, not toilets! Remember the **"3P"** principle - only Poo, Pee and TP go down the toilet. Thanks for your help!



about taking the position. "I had an opportunity to assist in the hiring of Chief Chubb and liked the similarities it had with other fire departments I have been involved with."

Clow replaces former Fire Chief Mark Chubb who took a position as chief safety officer of Alliance for Bangladesh Worker Safety based in Dhaka,

Bangladesh.

Interim Fire Chief Jon Parkinson returned to Eastside Fire and Rescue on September 4, 2015. "We wish Chief Parkinson the best as he returns to duty at Eastside Fire. He has been instrumental during the search for a new chief and the transition to Chief Clow," said Board Chairman Jeff Doppmann.