



SKY LINES

www.skyways.org

January 2017

Commissioner's Corner

Role of water and sewer commissioners:



Jon Ault

Every two years you have the opportunity to vote for one of three commissioners that are elected to serve 6 year terms. This is an unpaid part time position, we receive an allowance set by the State for each meeting we attend, and commissioners may attend 2 to 10 meetings a month depending on their duties and interests.

Commissioners make decisions on policies, rates and in general they oversee the operation of *your* water and sewer district. That wasn't a typo, the water and sewer district belongs to you, the rate payers - it is an entity in itself and is not owned by any other government agency. All costs incurred in supporting the district operation and maintenance is paid for by your water and sewer bills.

Every year your commissioners meet with the District Manager, Cynthia Lamothe as well as engineering and financial consultants to review and approve the budget and set the water and sewer rates to cover the costs of the projects that need to be done and the debts that needs to be repaid from previous projects. The goal is to keep your district financially stable for the future. We always appreciate input from our customers.

King County NEWS



The Metropolitan King County Council approved the **2017-2018 biennial budget** on Nov. 14. The budget, as approved by the Council, preserves the Air Support and Marine units in the Sheriff's office and increases the number of deputies who will be serving unincorporated King County. The budget also creates a new program for recreational activities in unincorporated King County as well as increases investments in Metro Transit, human and homeless services, and other important programs. New resources are also available to support several parks in unincorporated King County.

The Council also adopted Ordinance 2016-0521.2 (Notice 18403) setting the reasonable compensation, fees and costs to

be paid by a utility company applying for a franchise or using the right-of-way of county roads under a franchise, and authorizing a utility company to make a forbearance payment to King County.

Under the adopted ordinance, Skyway Water and Sewer District would be subject to the compensation, fees, costs and forbearance payments established under the ordinance and this cost would be included in customer water and sewer rates.

For more information on these actions, visit the King County website at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/council.aspx>



Another Clean Audit!

Every year, the Washington State Auditor's Office conducts an audit for the District. Generally, two types of audits are conducted – accountability and financial statements. The purpose of the audits is to assess the District's compliance with applicable laws, regulations, policies and procedures, and the safeguarding of public resources. An audit for fiscal year 2015 has been completed and this marks the **24th consecutive year** that no findings were reported by the State Auditor. This accomplishment reflects the ongoing commitment of the District's Commissioners and employees to providing strong operational oversight, excellent internal controls and accurate financial reporting.





Join us!

"Favorite Northwest Natives"

Greg Rabourn

(Educator, Radio Personality, Author)

Thursday, March 30, 2017

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Skyway Water & Sewer District
6723 South 124th Street

Give your yard a Northwest flavor! **This workshop will highlight native plants that would make a great addition** to your landscape. Whether you want shade, privacy, pollinators, birds or a hassle-free landscape, discover plant suggestions you can take to the nursery.

Register now!

www.favoritenatives.brownpapertickets.com

we can help

Skyway Water and Sewer District and The Salvation Army provide **financial assistance to individuals and families on the brink of losing water and sewer services**. The program is funded by District rates and customer donations, and administered by the Salvation Army. For more information, call us at 206-772-7343 or the Salvation Army at 425-255-5969.



Thinking About Buying a Home? Inspect the Sewer!

If you are thinking about buying a home, be sure to have the side sewer inspected as part of your overall pre-purchase home inspection. If you own a home, you also own and are responsible for maintaining, repairing and/or replacing the home's side sewer "from the drain to the main". That means all the drain pipes in the house and the pipe that runs from the house all the way to the sewer mainline is the homeowner's responsibility.

Upon inspection, side sewer lines are often found to be old, full of tree and plant roots, broken, crushed or leaking. Side sewer lines



that are not properly maintained have a greater potential for causing private sewer system backups which can be extremely inconvenient, damaging and costly. So if you are thinking of buying a home, don't forget to inspect the side sewer. Your attention to what's in the home's underground will ensure its sewer system stays working through the life of your home ownership.

2016 RATE ASSISTANCE

During 2016 there were **217** qualifying low income senior or disabled customers that participated in the District's Rate Discount Program. The **cost of this program**

was approximately \$59,687.28 - \$10,445.04 in water service and \$49,242.24 in sewer service.



Sharing, Caring Teaching, Learning!

SkyWest Tool Library



Nearly 2 years ago, a very small group of people got together to brainstorm about starting a tool lending library in the Skyway/West Hill area. While the planning and upfront work has gone well, the tool library is not yet up and running. **We could use your help!!** Like most ideas, it takes more than just a few people to make something happen. If you're interested and want to **learn more or volunteer** to make the SkyWest Tool Library a reality, please join us at **6:00 PM** on the **4th Thursday** of the month (except holidays) at the Skyway Water and Sewer District office.

-Jon Ault and Preston Horne-Brine

My WEST HILL

West Hill Community Association's Winter Community Quarterly Meeting

Special presentations (New sidewalks coming? Questions/complaints for King County Roads? Questions for KC Community Service Areas manager Alan Painter? + more...), community announcements, news & reports.
Tues January 17th, 7pm @ Skyway VFW, 7421 S 126th St

West Hill Action Mob Park Mulch Party

Help perk up the park with a brisk 120-minute activity. All are welcome!
Sat January 21st, 10am-Noon @ Skyway Park

How can I directly support real change in my community?
Make a donation at MyWestHill.org!

What's going on in my neighborhood this week?
Check out the events calendar at... you guessed it: MyWestHill.org!

WEST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MyWestHill.org MyWestHill