

Commissioner's Corner

Happy Spring!

Greetings! It's officially spring here, and it's been wet but that beats the alternative of having drought. It may seem that water magically appears when you turn on the faucet, or we just take it for granted. Our last newsletter in March explained the process where the water and sewer district Commissioners are responsible for setting rates that our customers pay each year. None of us enjoy this part of our positions, but it's necessary. The District is constantly dealing with what facilities or structures (pipes, pumps, meters etc.) need to be replaced first. When the water and sewer infrastructure reaches an age that it can't be relied on for service to the customers, it has to be replaced. This is the situation here in Skyway as most everything was built many years ago. "Failure is not an option" as the saying goes, so more funding is needed in a time when we are not sure what assistance the State will provide. So there are three things I want to say here. The District is a top-notch organization that is not profiting from customer billing. The Commissioners are spending time with staff and consultants to better understand the necessary projects that we need to replace old infrastructure. We want to continue excellent service!



Gary Schulz

YOUR WATER – To Know It Is to Love It

For more than 35 years, the American Water Works Association and its members have been celebrating "Drinking Water Week" – a unique opportunity for water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives. This year, May 7-13, has been officially designated as "Drinking Water Week".

Because of the essential role drinking water plays in our daily lives, and because you may not get this news insert before the week has ended, Skyway Water and Sewer District is extending its celebration of drinking water for the entire month of May. Drinking or tap water is such a basic part of our daily lives that we sometimes forget how precious it is. Only water delivers the high quality of life we enjoy:



- ◆ **Public Health Protection:** In a world where millions of people die each year from waterborne diseases and hundreds of millions do not have access to clean drinking water, people in North America can drink water from virtually any public tap with high assurance of safety. Without modern water systems, diseases such as Cholera and Dysentery would be a tragic part of our everyday life.
- ◆ **Fire Protection:** While most of us never think about fires until they occur, there is a vast network of water infrastructure in place to protect us when they do. Simply put, a water system that provides reliable water at a high pressure and volume can be the difference between a manageable fire and an inferno that results in death and the loss of property.
- ◆ **Support for the Economy:** Though often taken for granted, tap water is critical to the daily operations of existing businesses and to the vitality of new residential developments and commercial enterprises. From food and beverages, to toothpastes and perfumes, water is an essential ingredient in hundreds of thousands of everyday products. The availability of water resources and service has a profound effect on job creation and overall economic prosperity.

We invite you to join with us in celebrating the essential. We hope that you'll take a moment or two during the month to truly reflect on and appreciate the value of drinking water and the importance of caring for our water supplies and systems. Reliable access to safe drinking water is essential to our own personal health and to our community's vitality!

COMING SOON: 2017 CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

On July 1st, our annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) or "Water Quality Report" will be available online. This report will provide you with detailed information on the quality of our drinking water in 2016. It will also relay how Skyway customers have been doing in their efforts to conserve water. As always, our goal is to provide a report that not only meets State and Federal requirements, but is also informative and easy to understand. Take a few minutes to go online and read it. There's a lot to know and learn about this precious resource! Copies of the report are available from the District upon request.



VOLUNTEER



About 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 and much progress has been made, the tool library is not yet up and running. **We could use your help!!** 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

**SkyWest
Tool
Library**

-Sharing, Caring Teaching, Learning!



How Do I Get Rid of... ?

Have you ever wondered what to do with that half empty bottle of shampoo that you don't like and won't use? Or the liquid fabric softener that doesn't do the job? You really shouldn't pour them down the sink drain or into the toilet. So **what** do you do with them?

Check out the **Local Hazardous Waste Management Program in King County**. In 1991, local governments and agencies in King County established a partnership to manage certain wastes regionally and have been providing services since that time. You can solidify many unwanted items by using cat litter, dirt or paper towels and then putting it in the garbage. Other items are accepted at household hazardous waste collection sites.

So the next time you're wondering what do with that outdated or unwanted product, check out the Program website at <http://www.hazwastehelp.org/HHW/list.aspx> for a list of items and how to dispose of them properly.



King County NEWS



As reported in our January 2017 issue, the King County Council adopted Ordinance 2016-0521 (also referred to as Ordinance 18403) which aims to establish 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 new or existing franchise. Under this ordinance, Skyway Water and Sewer District would be subject to additional costs that would then be passed on to our customers as part of your water and sewer rates.

It is the District's position that the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 57.08.005 (3) and (5) empowers the District to use the roadway right-of-way for the purpose of constructing and maintaining our water and sewer utilities. The District, along with many other water-sewer districts, presented arguments and objections to the proposed ordinance during a public hearing before the ordinance was adopted. The District continues to advocate on behalf of our customers that the County cannot charge the District for use of the public right-of-way in the manner intended by the ordinance.

Skyway Outdoor Cinema 2017 Movie Lineup

Which movies did your neighbors vote for? **We're announcing the lineup on May 15th**, and you can be the first to be notified by Liking us on Facebook or signing up for insider emails at MyWestHill.org/SOC

SAVE THE DATE: King County's West Hill Town Hall Meeting

Your chance to interact with Councilmember Larry Gossett, Sr. Deputy Executive Fred Jarrett, Sheriff John Urquhart and other King County officials. **Bring your questions and comments!**

Thurs. June 15th, 7-9pm

Secondary Learning Center, 7800 S 132nd St

How can I directly support real change in my community?

Make a donation at MyWestHill.org/donate/

What's going on in my neighborhood this week?

Check out the events calendar at MyWestHill.org/calendar/

WEST HILL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

MyWestHill.org **MyWestHill**