

A Year In Review



Over the past year, District staff have been very busy maintaining your water and sewer systems:

- ◆ Completed replacement/upgrade of 6 sewer manholes and approximately 77 feet of sewer main
- ◆ Managed water and sewer developer extensions that included service connections to 31 new single family residences
- ◆ Collected and analyzed more than 700 water samples
- ◆ Repaired 9 fire hydrants
- ◆ Installed 7 new water service connections
- ◆ Replaced 400 individual water meters
- ◆ Cleaned all of your 12 sewer pump station more than 600 times
- ◆ Repaired 20 leaks in your 40 miles of water main
- ◆ Inspected 150 sewer manholes
- ◆ Maintained and serviced 7 pressure reducing stations
- ◆ Recorded more than 20,000 meter readings for water consumption

In calendar year 2018, we plan to:

- ◆ Install 6,700 feet of new sewer main to replace old and undersized pipes and retire or upgrade three sewer pump stations
- ◆ Upgrade water well production and treatment facilities
- ◆ Replace 800 individual water meters

Each and every task is performed in order to provide you with reliable water and sewer service on a daily basis.

Winter – Ready or not, It Will Come!

It's been a gorgeous summer extending well into October, but we know the seasons are changing. By the time you receive this newsletter, you may be seeing freezing temperatures and other signs of winter. West Hill residents have likely pulled out boots, warm coats, hats, scarves and gloves. As temperatures drop and the rains return, remember your home and yard. Try these tips to help you prevent weather related problems!



TO HELP PREVENT FLOODING:

- ✧ Rake up and properly dispose of fallen leaves.
- ✧ Keep storm drains clear
- ✧ Clean gutters and downspouts
- ✧ Disconnect any downspouts that are connected to the sanitary sewer system.
- ✧ Direct downspout flows away from your home's foundation without directing those flows to adjacent properties.

TO HELP PREVENT FROZEN PIPES:

- ✧ Disconnect and drain all outdoor hoses.
- ✧ Drain and wrap or cover outside faucets and hose bibs.
- ✧ Shut off and drain in-ground sprinkler systems.
- ✧ Wrap/insulate pipes that are in unheated areas (attics, basements, crawl spaces, garages).
- ✧ Caulk (seal) around pipes where they enter the house.
- ✧ Close foundation vents to minimize cold wind from blowing into your house. Pipes exposed to drafts from open foundation vents are most at risk of freezing or splitting during cold weather. Close off these vents by placing pieces of wood or styrofoam against the vent openings. Remove the wood or styrofoam in the spring to prevent dry rot.

BEFORE IT DROPS BELOW FREEZING:

- ✧ Protect indoor sink pipes that are against exterior walls by opening under-sink cabinet doors to allow indoor heat to circulate.
- ✧ Know where your main water shut off valve is located for quick shut off in the event of a water emergency. (If your house does not have a main water shutoff, consider having a plumber install one.) If a water pipe breaks, immediately close the main shut-off valve. If you cannot locate the valve, call us at 206-772-7343 and a District field technician will turn off the water at the meter.
- ✧ Identify several plumbers in advance and keep their numbers handy in the event of an emergency.
- ✧ Set your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit day or night (even if you are away during the winter months).

Season's Greetings!

Best wishes from all of us here at Skyway Water and Sewer District this holiday season and in the coming New Year. We thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve you.



What is a FATBERG?

Have you ever heard of a “fatberg”? A **fatberg** is a congealed lump of fat, sanitary napkins, wet wipes, condoms, diapers and similar items found in sewer systems and these things do NOT break down like toilet paper. The word “fatberg” was added to **Oxford Dictionaries Online** in 2015. Fatbergs are very troublesome clogs in sanitary sewer systems and can be as strong as concrete!

Although we have not had this kind of giant clog in our sanitary sewer system, we have had smaller clogs and want to prevent any type of clog from happening. They can create problems for you, our customers, if they occur in your side sewer and they can be expensive to remove.



Photos of recent fatbergs that clogged sewer lines in England.

Here are some useful tips on how you can prevent a FATBERG from forming:

- **Do not** pour grease or oils down the kitchen drain or into the toilet - **CAN THE GREASE!!** Cans are available for free at the District office for sewer customers.
- **Do** wipe out frying pans with a paper towel or newspaper and throw the paper into the garbage or compostable bin.
- **Consider** having your side sewer line inspected to see if there are any conditions that could cause a “FATBERG” in your side sewer line.



The **SkyWest Tool Library** is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to supporting the West Hill Community through the sharing of information and household tools. 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

SkyWest Tool Library Sharing, Caring, Teaching, Learning!



EVENTS

This past summer was a season of dry, sunny weather and many outdoor activities. Your District staff participated in two fun and informative local community events. On August 19th, the **Skyway Parade and Block Party** was celebrated. Residents lining the parade route were treated to a look at the District's 15,000 GVW dump truck proudly rolling along Renton Ave So as part of the parade. This 2002 F-450 dump truck has been in service since 2014 and is used to carry off excess spoils or dirt, haul supplies for pipe replacement, and for other similar water and sewer work. We were pleased to have our customers recognize the truck and cheer us on!

The following Saturday, August 26th, District staff, along with Cascade Water Alliance, participated in the **West Hill Health and Safety Fair** held at the King County Fire District #20 Training Facility. It was an opportunity for us to provide our customers with information about the work we do, share tips on water conservation, and answer questions about maintaining your private water and sewer service lines.



WEST HILL
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

don't miss:

West Hill Community Association's Winter Community Quarterly Meeting

Special presentations, community announcements, news & reports.

📅 Tues Jan 16th, 7pm 📍 Skyway VFW, 7421 S 126th St

How can I get important events and info in my inbox?

✉ Sign up for email newsletters at MyWestHill.org!

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/!

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