



SKYWAY LINES

www.skywayws.org

January 2018

Commissioner's Corner

Greetings for the New Year! Although it's not the most desirable subject to start the year with, it may be the most important. By now you should have heard of King County Ordinance No. 18403 that was quickly adopted by the County Council in November 2016.



Gary Schulz

The Ordinance is disguised as a Franchise Agreement and is so controversial and "far reaching" into the pockets of public and private utilities that it may need to be tested in a legal court. Skyway Water & Sewer District is participating with other special districts to challenge this Ordinance.

Nobody wants to spend legal fees, but Skyway's position and that of many other sewer and water districts is that the Ordinance is unlawful. The short official comment period to the County on rule making for the Ordinance ended 12/7/17 but customers may still use the information notice the District mailed to you to share your comments with the project manager responsible for the Rule implementing the Ordinance and your King County Councilmember. The Ordinance could set a State wide precedent, and we really don't know the total cost of this County tax.

The two County website links listed below are for the proposed Rule to implement the Ordinance and to contact the County Council. Regardless of the comment period ending, you can still comment to the County Council. Customers can send – email comments to all of the Council or at least to Joe McDermott – Council Chairman. Please help customers, all citizens of unincorporated King County, and the Skyway District prevent an unfair and unpredictable tax from being implemented.

<http://bit.ly/2yYFI4J>

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

WATER & SEWER RATES 101

Skyway Water and Sewer District is a public utility owned by the property owners within its boundaries. The District's rates and charges are established by a Board of three locally elected Commissioners. The District is funded by and operates on customer rates alone; it receives **no tax revenue**.

Rates pay for **everything** behind the turn of your water faucet or the flush of your toilet. Rates **alone** pay for all that's necessary to operate and maintain your water mains, reservoirs, wells, pump stations, water treatment facility, sampling stations, pressure reducing stations, fire hydrants; your sewer mains, lift stations, and manholes; and to ensure that all County, State and Federal regulations are met.

Your **water bill** has two parts:

- 1) a base fee that pays for your water meter and all of the infrastructure required to get water to the meter and the fire hydrants closest to your house upon demand and
- 2) a consumption charge that pays for the water commodity itself that's calculated every two months based on the amount of water you use.

For residential customers your **sewer bill** is a flat rate that also has two parts:

- 1) a flat charge for sewage and wastewater collection, relay and local infrastructure maintenance and replacement that stays within Skyway and
- 2) a King County charge for sewage and wastewater transmission and treatment, and regional infrastructure maintenance and replacement. This second charge is collected by Skyway and sent on to King County.

Water and sewer rates are complex. Water quality standards in our region are some of the highest in the country. With the turn of the faucet and flush of the toilet, water and sewer service is available to you 24/7. Most people agree that water and sewer service and the protection of our public health and environment are of great value – well worth their combined cost of about \$4.60/day.

If you have questions, need more information or want to discuss details of your individual bill, please don't hesitate to call us!



King County **NEWS**

In January 2017 we told you about Ordinance 18403 that King County had adopted which would charge the District fees for using the public right-of-way under our franchise agreement with the County.

In May 2017, we told you that the District's position is that we already have authority granted to us by the State of Washington to have your pipes and other infrastructure in the right-of-way and that we had presented our objection during a public hearing before the ordinance was adopted.

Most recently, we responded to the comment period on rule making for implementing the Ordinance and submitted our comments to the County on December 7th objecting to the Ordinance.

The full text of our response and related information is available on the District website at www.skywayws.org.

CAPITAL PROJECT CONSTRUCTION STARTUP

Contracts were signed in December between the District and **McClure and Sons** for the second construction phase of our water treatment/supply facility. This second phase will include installation of pumping and piping improvements for two existing wells; construction of a 2,400 square foot masonry building with lab facilities; site grading, drainage and paving; water treatment improvements; an emergency generator and other associated improvements. The contractor is scheduled to start work onsite in mid-January. Contact the District if you would like more information on the project.

“Stealing Beauty”

Inspiration for Low-Water-Use Plants from Around the World

Marianne Binetti
(Radio host, Author, Columnist)

Thursday, 3/15/17
7:00 to 8:30 pm

6723 S 124th St.
Seattle, WA
(Skyway Office)

To register, visit: stealingbeauty.brownpapertickets.com



**HELP FOR
THOSE IN
NEED**



Skyway Water and Sewer District and The Salvation Army partner to 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.**

2017 RATE ASSISTANCE

During 2017 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 \$66,633.72 -- \$10,989 in water service and \$55,644.72 in sewer service.



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!

MyWestHill.org • MyWestHill

MyWestHill • WestHillTweets

SkyWest Tool Library

Sharing • Caring • Teaching • Learning

Almost 3 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 has gone well and progress is being made on a website, 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

