

Commissioner's Corner

We often hear from customers that they are concerned about water and sewer rates. While we are very much aware that paying for water and sewer service is difficult for some of our customers, many of them are surprised to learn that Skyway Water & Sewer is **totally** supported by your payments. Skyway W&S is a not-for-profit public agency that you own, and its sole mission is to provide the service you deserve. In doing this, we do not receive any money from taxes or from King County. Your water & sewer rates pay for the entire operation and maintenance of the district. This includes payment of debt for monies borrowed to fund large projects, the capital improvement fund, daily operating costs, and employee wages & benefits.

Every year the district is audited by the Washington State Auditor, and we have received satisfactory audit reviews for 25 consecutive years. I hope this proves to you that we are handling your money responsibly.



Jon Ault

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction of the District's **Well Site & Treatment Upgrades Phase 2** project with McClure & Sons Inc has moved along well and is nearing completion! The treatment building is finished, site fencing installed, and paving in place. Equipment testing and integration of control systems are some of the last tasks to be done. Contact the District if you would like more information on the project.



King County **NEWS**

As reported in our September 2018 newsletter, a Summary Judgment Hearing was held at the King County Courthouse in Seattle on the legality of King County Ordinance 18403. On August 1, 2018 the court issued an oral ruling and on September 4, 2018 the Order and Judgement that King County **cannot charge rent** for use of the public right-of-way and granted summary judgment to the defendants, which includes Skyway Water and Sewer District. This ruling supports the District's position that it has authority to construct, operate and maintain utility infrastructure within the King County franchised area without paying rent.

On **September 24, 2018**, King County appealed the King County trial court's ruling and is seeking direct review by the Washington Supreme Court.

The District will continue to **advocate on behalf of our customers** that the County cannot charge the District fees, rent or a tax for use of the public right-of-way in the manner intended by Ordinance 18403.

Best wishes from all of us here at Skyway Water and Sewer District. We want to wish you hope, health and happiness during this holiday season and in the coming New Year, and thank you for the opportunity to serve you.

Be prepared for winter!

It's been a beautiful summer and here in the Northwest, we certainly appreciate each and every sunny day! But we know the seasons change and, by the time you receive this newsletter, we might be seeing freezing temperatures and other signs of winter. You may have already pulled out winter boots, heavy jackets, and gloves. As the season changes into winter, please 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 your 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 such as 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)



Be as ready as you can be when Winter comes to town!

**SkyWest
Tool
Library**

*-Sharing, Caring
Teaching, Learning!*

Make the SkyWest Tool Library a reality!! Join us at 7:00 PM on the 4th Thursday of the month (except holidays) at the Skyway Water and Sewer District office. Share your thoughts and ideas, learn more, volunteer or just see what it's all about!



Community COFFEE HOUR

WHCA's Community Coffee Hour 11/10 at 10am, Skyway Library

Enjoy free coffee and light breakfast while engaging with neighbors and special guests in a casual laid-back atmosphere.

Did you vote by 11/6? Well done! Don't forget, if your signature is challenged, you need to get your response into King County Elections' hands by November 26 at 4:30pm to have it count.

BE SURE YOUR REGISTRATION IS UP TO DATE FOR NEXT ELECTION: Register, update, view voter guides and more: bit.ly/WestHillVotes

How can I directly support real change in my community? Become a monthly supporter (even \$5!) at MyWestHill.org/donate/

What's going on in my neighborhood this week? Check out the events calendar at MyWestHill.org/calendar/

Where can I stay connected to community news and updates? Follow us on [Facebook.com/MyWestHill/](https://www.facebook.com/MyWestHill/)



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