

## Commissioner's Corner

### How Lucky We Are:

That we don't have to pack the daily amount of water we use from a water source some distance away. We have pipes that deliver it to us. But even with our



Don Henry



good fortune we still have to be careful not to misuse it. That can happen with "leaks" in our faucets, toilets,

letting the water run while brushing our teeth and using larger washer loads than needed. Putting in a new "low flow" shower head helps you conserve water while showering. Also, with the approach of winter, you need to drain/cover/protect outdoor faucets that may freeze, as well as draining water from your outdoor hoses. Wrap or insulate pipes in crawl spaces, garages, attics to protect them from freezing. Hopefully, these steps will prolong our good fortune well into the future. Every drop of water saved is there to be used in the future. Wishing a Safe and Happy 2019 to all!

## CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



As we go to print with this newsletter, construction of the District's **Well Site & Treatment Upgrades Phase 2** project with McClure & Sons Inc is substantially complete!! With two additional wells brought into service as part of this project, the District now has three wells providing an independent water supply, in addition to our Seattle and Renton sources. The project also includes expanded water treatment processes and maximizes use of the District's water rights. With an onsite emergency generator and updated facilities, the District's wells provide a reliable, cost effective source of water supply for our customers, now and into the future.



### 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 Extension 214.**

### 2018 RATE ASSISTANCE

During 2018 there were 236 qualifying low income senior or disabled customers that participated in the District's Rate Discount Program. The cost of this program was approximately \$81,220.44 -- \$12,532.44 in water service and \$68,688 in sewer service.



Save Water

happy new year

2019

# Sustainable Veggie Gardening

Free Class!

It's possible! Enjoy easy-care plants, fewer weeds, and less watering, without all the chemicals. Learn successful techniques and practical tips for transitioning your garden to a sustainable one. Discover how to select plants that will thrive for you.



Taught by **Ladd Smith**, co-owner of In Harmony Landscape Services

Thursday, 3/21/19 at 7:00 PM  
6723 S 124th Street



REGISTER NOW! <https://vegiessky.brownpapertickets.com/>

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!



## Be Prepared!!

Whether it's your own home or a huge business, it's important to be prepared for emergencies. The Seattle Times recently published an article about a Seattle Public Utilities study conducted to incorporate the current seismic (earthquake) risk into long-term planning for SPU's water system: <https://bit.ly/2K0tXA6>

Skyway Water and Sewer District is currently participating in the King County Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The goal of the Plan is to reduce risks from natural hazards such as earthquakes, severe weather, floods, landslides, and wildfires.

While the District plans for projects needed to maintain and improve your water and sewer service and mitigate the impacts of natural disasters, there are steps you can take to be prepared in the event of an emergency or natural disaster:

- ◆ **Get trained.** Enroll in the **King County Fire District #20 CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) Training** program. The most recent group of trainees graduated on December 8, 2018.  
The CERT program educates area residents about disaster preparedness for the hazards that may impact their community and trains them in basic disaster response skills. These community members just completed over 30 hours of training on how to stay safe and help their neighbors during a disaster.
- ◆ **Create a family emergency plan.** Hold a home evacuation drill and choose a nearby meeting place. Anticipate transportation failures and designate an out-of-state relative to be a check-in contact for everyone. Keep photos of family members and pets in your wallet, in case they turn up missing.
- ◆ **Know your utilities.** All family members should know how and when to turn off the utilities.
  - ✓ **Water** - Turn the water off if there is obvious leakage, or if there's a chance water lines are damaged, which could allow contamination. Wait for notification that lines are okay before turning it back on.
  - ✓ **Gas** - Turn the gas off only if you hear hissing or smell gas. Once turned off, gas can only be restarted by a trained technician.
  - ✓ **Electricity** - If you see sparks, damaged wires or smell burning insulation, switch the power off at the main breaker or fuse box.
- ◆ **Create an emergency kit.** Be prepared to spend 7-10 days without utilities, medical help or communications. Keep a family emergency kit with the basics and make sure everyone knows its location
- ◆ **Plan for your pets.** Have a supply of food, water and shelter for your pets.



No one can be prepared for every possible event. But a few basic steps can help to keep your family, friends and neighbors as prepared and safe as possible. For more tips and information in Emergency Preparedness, see the King County website at <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/emergency-preparedness.aspx>