

# Around the Lake

Water and Sewer-Related News and Information

## No Lead Discovered in Silver Lake's Water Service Line Inventory



by Commissioner  
Anne Backstrom

**In 2021, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) implemented a Lead and Copper Rule Revision**

**that included a requirement for all public water systems to complete an inventory of public and private water service lines to verify that they are not made of lead.**

**The District is pleased to report that No Lead Service Lines were discovered during our Service Line Inventory!**

Although many homes, businesses, and water services in the District's service area were constructed after a Federal lead ban took effect, some were constructed earlier and required verification.

Verifying these unknown service lines was a significant undertaking. We began with a review of existing documentation to confirm the material or date of construction, followed by a variety of approved methods to complete the investigation, including hydro-excavation at the meter box to access and physically verify the service line (both on the District-owned portion of the line from street to meter box, and the

customer owned portion from meter box to the home or building). Finally, every service location's method of verification was listed in a map posted on our website.

Information from all future operations, such as when we change out a water meter or install a new water main, will be tracked and updated as required by the EPA.

**Federal Lead Bans:** The use of pipes that contain lead has been prohibited since 1986, and the rules were amended again in 1996 to extend these requirements to lead free plumbing fittings and fixtures.

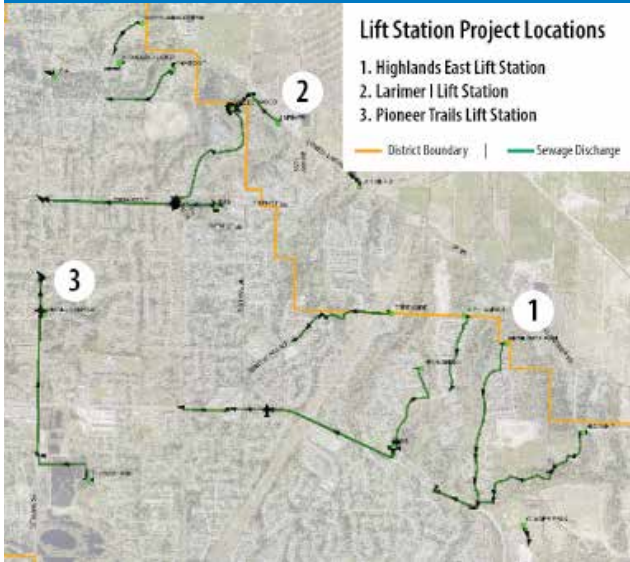
View information about your water service line on our website's [Lead Service Line Inventory Map](#).

Please [contact us](#) with any questions or for more information about sources of lead in drinking water.





# Ensuring Your Sewer & Water Infrastructure is Well-Maintained



## 10th Drive SE Water and Sewer Improvements

In mid-April, we began this forward-thinking project to address anticipated growth in the coming decades. Work involved replacing approximately 5,100 feet of old undersized

cast iron water main with a new 12-inch distribution backbone to accommodate future redevelopment in the Silver Acres area, and installing approximately 2,300 feet of new sewer main where feasible and cost-effective. (The District does not expect or require current property owners to connect to the sewer in the near term.)

Sewer installation was completed by the end of June, the water main was finished in mid-September, and roadway paving was completed shortly after. Final restoration work will be done as weather permits. The overall project was completed approximately six months earlier than expected at a cost of approximately \$4.5 million.

Additional outreach and notification will be done with local residents regarding a new Special Connection Fee for sewer, with information available at [10thdrivewaterandsewer.com](https://www.10thdrivewaterandsewer.com).

## Lowell Larimer 1 Lift Station Replacement

On October 24, 2024, we awarded the construction contract to McClure & Sons, Inc. of Mill Creek, in the amount of \$4.175



million. This project will include new concrete retaining walls to expand the station footprint, replacing the existing station with submersible pumps, and adding a new valve vault, backup generator, and electrical control building. The existing wet well will be converted to overflow storage. Work is expected to begin in early 2025 and take approximately one year to complete.



## Pioneer Trails Lift Station Replacement

Supply chain issues are still impacting the construction industry.

Although work began in August 2023, this project has been on hold since April 2024 due to a delay in critical electronic parts. Thankfully the station motor control center will finally be delivered in 2024, with project completion scheduled for early 2025. The scope of work includes replacing the existing lift station with three submersible pumps, a new backup generator, valve and meter vaults, and an electrical control building. The existing 35-foot deep wet well will be converted to overflow storage, with a construction cost of \$3.845 million.



## Highlands East Lift Station Rehabilitation

This project is at the 90% design stage, and pending permit approval by Snohomish County. We expect it to go out to bid in early 2025, and likely start construction in the Spring. The scope of work includes replacing the old, high maintenance surface-mounted pumps with new submersibles in the existing wet well, a new valve vault, generator and an electrical control building, with site improvements including new fencing. The estimated construction cost is approximately \$2.7 million.

## Special Rates for Low Income Senior or Disabled Persons

Silver Lake Water and Sewer District provides discounted water and sewer rates for qualifying low-income Seniors or Disabled persons, applied to the base rate for both water and sewer service. The reduction is approximately 50% for water and 25% for sewer base rates. To qualify, the current income cap is \$75,000 for a household; the income cap is tied to the Snohomish County Property Tax Exemption thresholds. Seniors are defined as a person 62 years of age or older. Disabled individuals also qualify if they receive disabled benefits from one or more of the following:



- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)
- Veteran Disability Compensation (VDC)
- Non-Grant Medical Assistance (NGMA)
- Benefits from permanent disability insurance or permanent state disability.

Additional restrictions may apply. For more information and the application form, visit our website at [www.slwsd.com](http://www.slwsd.com) and click on the Customer Assistance icon or Forms & Documents icon. Or call Customer Service at 425-337-3647.

*In 2024, 280 customers qualified for the low-income rates and received a total of \$87,856.20 benefits in the form of a reduced base rate for water and sewer services.*

Cost of Low Income Senior/Disabled Rate Program				
Low Income Senior or Disabled Customer Category	# of Customers	2024 Base Rate	2024 Discounted Rate	Annual Cost
Water	280	\$16.25	\$8.15	\$27,216.00
Sewer - Everett Basin	227	\$79.40	\$59.55	\$54,071.40
Sewer - AWWD Basin	28	\$78.20	\$58.65	\$6,568.80
<b>Total Cost</b>				<b>\$87,856.20</b>

## Autopay – Easy and Convenient

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to overlook important tasks, like paying your utility bill. That's why Silver Lake Water and Sewer District offers two convenient autopay options to ensure you never miss a payment, no matter how busy life gets. The first option is a no-cost service through the District, allowing payments directly from your checking or savings account (property owners only). The second option is a fee-based service via our payment vendor, Invoice Cloud.

By enrolling in autopay, you can rest easy knowing your payment will be handled automatically. With the no-cost option, we withdraw your payment on the 15th of the month it's due from your designated checking or savings account (please note, no credit card payments). If you're out of town or busy, you won't need to worry about making your payment on time.

To enroll in the no-cost autopay option, visit our website at <https://forms.slwsd.com/Forms/FinAuthforAutoPay>. If you have questions, call us at 425-337-3647, and one of our friendly Utility Clerks will be happy to assist you.

If you prefer to use a credit card, or are renting, our second option through Invoice Cloud allows for credit card autopayments. Please note that a \$4.25 transaction fee applies. With this option, your payment will be deducted on the due date each cycle. Alternatively, you can set up a "recurring" payment to choose a different date each month that works better for you. To explore these options, visit <https://www.slwsd.com/billing> and scroll down to the "Pay Now Online" section.

Regardless of which option you choose, autopay is an easy and convenient way to ensure your utility payments are always made on time. It's one less thing to worry about!

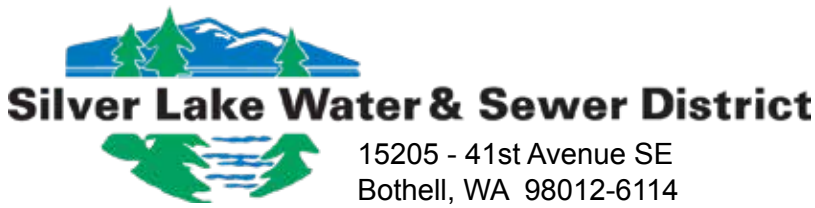


## Silver Lake Employee Completes Two Year Apprenticeship Program

In August of 2021, the District partnered with Evergreen Rural Water and enrolled its first employee into the Evergreen Rural Water Apprenticeship Program. Shown in the photo is Jacob Ainley who was the first District employee to graduate from the program. This Labor and Industries approved 2-year program consists of Evergreen Rural Water providing 288 hours of formal classroom training, the District provides 4,000 hours of on-the-job training, working under the supervision of experienced workers.

At the program completion, Apprentices will have obtained a Water Distribution Manager 1 and a Cross Connection 1 Washington State Certifications, and will be ready to work in the water field as a Journey Level Utility Maintenance Worker. This partnership has been very successful, as the District currently has three Apprentices enrolled in the program. Each year since 2021, the District has hired and enrolled an apprentice in the program.

With the aging workforce and the increasingly technical nature of our water systems, this program ensures that the District is keeping a highly skilled workforce in place. If you want to learn more about the program, the District and Evergreen Rural Water participate in the Sno-Isle Tech Career Fair each year. The fair will occur on November 21, 2024. If you find you have interest in the Apprenticeship Program, the District will have our Apprentices at the fair, as well as Evergreen Rural Water representation, to answer any questions you may have.



15205 - 41st Avenue SE  
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

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### How to Thaw a Frozen Pipe

When temperatures drop below freezing, you may find yourself with a frozen pipe. To thaw it safely, wrap it with rags soaked in hot water, changing out the rags as they cool down.

Or use a hair dryer, space heater, or heating tape—**but be sure to keep electrical devices from contacting water.** Once the pipe thaws, wrap it with dry insulation. NEVER use a torch due to the chance of a fire. You can also contact a plumber for assistance.

### Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

#### Address

15205 - 41st Avenue SE  
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

#### Phone Fax

(425) 337-3647 (425) 337-4399

#### Email

service@slwsd.com

#### Office Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesdays 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturday, Sunday, and major holidays.

#### Public Meetings

Our Board of Commissioners meet in-person, on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public may attend and comment in person or via teleconference. The conference telephone number and access code are published on our website. There is an opportunity for public comment at the beginning of the agenda. If you wish to speak at a meeting, please contact us in advance at (425) 337-3647 (Ext. 212) so we can call upon you at the appropriate time.

### How to Pay Your Bill

#### Types of Payments Accepted

Check, money order, and credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express)

#### Pay By DropBox

A payment drop box—for checks and money orders only—is available in the parking lot of our office at 15205 - 41st Avenue SE in Bothell.

#### Pay Online

www.slwsd.com

#### Pay By Phone

1-(844) 956-1375

#### Pay With Your Own Bank Bill Pay System

Please allow 7 business days for delivery

#### Pay In Person

15205 - 41st Avenue SE  
Bothell, WA 98012-6114

#### Transaction Fees as of May 8, 2023

Pay online with credit/debit \$4.25  
Pay online with ACH/EFT \$2.85  
Pay by phone with credit/debit card: \$5.00  
Pay by phone with EFT: \$3.60

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### In Case of Emergency

District staff are on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to assist you with water and sewer emergencies.

**(425) 337-3647**

If you are calling after hours, press “1” to hold for an Emergency Operator.