



Around the Lake

Water and Sewer-Related News and Information

Positive Result on the District's 2021 Sanitary Water Survey

by Commissioner Anne Backstrom



The State Department of Health recently conducted a sanitary survey of the District water system. The purpose of a sanitary survey is to inspect water system facilities, review operations and maintenance programs, and to offer technical assistance

to help ensure compliance with drinking water regulations. These inspections occur at five-year intervals.

The survey indicated that the water system is well operated, maintained, and managed. There were no deficiencies or findings to report. The State survey inspector stated that the staff is experienced and dedicated to protecting public health through the provision of safe drinking water.



Lower Rates Available for Low Income Senior or Disabled Persons

In 2021, 180 customers of Silver Lake Water and Sewer District received a total of \$42,544.80 in reduced water and sewer rates, thanks to our Low Income Rate Discount. Qualifications include:

- Income thresholds at \$55,743 per household.
- Seniors age 61 years or older.
- Disabled individuals receiving 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), permanent disability insurance benefits, or state permanent disability benefits.

More information and the Low Income Application Form can be found on the District's website www.slwsd.com, under the Forms section, or by contacting a Customer Service Representative at (425) 337-3647.

Cost of Low Income Senior/Disabled Program - 2021

| Low Income Senior or Disabled Customers | | Base Monthly Rate | | Annual Cost |
|---|-----|-------------------|------------|--------------------|
| | | Regular | Low Income | |
| Water | 180 | 14.60 | 7.30 | \$15,768.00 |
| Sewer - Everett | 138 | 58.25 | 43.75 | 24,012.00 |
| Sewer - AWWD | 16 | 57.65 | 43.25 | 2,764.80 |
| Total | | | | \$42,544.80 |

Snohomish County Renter's Assistance For Water and Sewer Bills

Snohomish County has authorized rental assistance funding for past due water and sewer bills, due to the COVID-19 pandemic utilizing federal relief funds. Snohomish County designated Volunteers of America as the contact agency for the applications and Workforce to process and approve the payments. Property owners with past due renters, or past due renters, can apply for the assistance by either calling 211 or online at www.voaww.org. The District's website also provides a link to the Volunteers of America application. District staff have worked with Workforce, to obtain assistance for eight customers who have been approved for a total of \$8,608.33 in assistance for past due water and sewer bills.



At the Board of Commissioner’s Meeting held on November 23, 2021, newly Elected Commissioner John Warner was sworn to serve as Commissioner, Position No. 2, through 2027.

Commissioner Warner was previously appointed to this role on December 24,

2019, to serve the remaining two years of Commissioner Bill Anderson’s term, who served the District for 35 years.

John and his wife, Kathy, have made their home in the Silver Lake area for nearly 30 years. They have been blessed with a blended family of 6 children, 12 grandchildren, and 2 great grandchildren.

John’s career was focused on engineering, having worked for the Department of Transportation and a local Civil Engineering firm. In his role at the Engineering firm, John worked as a consultant, inspecting construction work on behalf of the District for many years, up until his retirement in 2011.

Protect Your Pipes in Winter

During extreme winter weather, be sure to insulate exposed pipes and faucets, particularly in areas where a water line enters the home (e.g., garage or crawl space). Disconnect garden hoses, and place a protective insulated cover over outdoor faucets. If your hardware store has no faucet insulators, a thick wrapping of old rags or newspaper secured with twine can help. If you discover a frozen pipe, thaw it with rags soaked with hot water -OR- a hair dryer, space heater, or heating tape. As with any electrical appliance, take care to avoid coming into contact with water when operating the device. Do NOT use a torch—the fire risk is too great. You may also contact a plumber. If you call us for assistance, response time may vary and there may be a charge if we dispatch an employee to turn off the water. For this reason, it’s important to locate your main shutoff valve prior to a crisis (such as a burst pipe) and know how it operates.

District Selects New Cellular Technology Water Meters

The District uses meters to read all of our 18,000+ service connections—either on a bimonthly basis (for Single Family Residential accounts) or on a monthly basis (for Commercial and Multifamily Residential accounts). Meters enable us to determine the following charges:

- Water Consumption: a charge for the amount of water used (separate from the base water service rate);
- Sewer Consumption applicable only to commercial accounts.

Historically these meters have been read manually, requiring someone to access each meter by hand, visually read the dial, and manually record the value—a very labor intensive process subject to human error. In the late 1990s, the District began using a Drive-by Radio Read system. While we still needed to drive by each location, equipment inside our vehicle utilized short-range radio

transmission to collect the reading without having to exit the vehicle. This was (and still is) far more labor efficient and accurate.

Ten years ago, radio-read systems began using longer range or repeating radios, allowing meters to be directly read from base station(s) and eliminating the need to drive by. As cellular technology evolved, radio systems began to be replaced with cellular radio transmitters that used commercial cellular towers to transmit data from the meters to the base station. These systems were even more reliable and eliminated some of the infrastructure and expense of the other systems.

Because our current meter system is aging and requiring more frequent maintenance as individual meters or radios reach the end of their useful life, the District decided earlier this year to reevaluate our water meters and solicit proposals from vendors. After lengthy evaluation, the District

selected Badger Meter and their Orion Cellular Metering System to be the District’s new Meter standard.

Beginning in 2022, new meters will be purchased and deployed as existing equipment fails, or when new installations are made. Existing equipment will be retained and read for as long as it remains serviceable. It is worth noting that the cost to purchase new water meters and transmitters is significantly lower than comparable equipment.

In addition to on-demand remote meter reading, our new cellular metering system will give the District and our customers the tools to identify and report leaks, identify and monitor backflow events, and view detailed consumption data. Because the conversion to this new system will take several years to reach all customers, individual notification will be provided to customers at the time the new meter is installed on their property.

Ongoing Infrastructure Improvements



Thomas Lake Sewer Lift Station Replacement

Construction will begin in early 2022 to replace a lift station located at the end of 138th Street SE, west of Seattle Hill Road.

The existing lift station was constructed in 2000 and collects sewage from an area between 148th Street SE and 132nd Street SE, plus receiving flow from the 164th Street Lift Station located further to the south. The Thomas Lake Station has become a high maintenance facility that has reached the end of its useful life prompting the prioritization for replacement. As a part of the project work, the pumping capacity of the lift station will be increased from 800 to 1200 gpm. Since the current lift station must remain in service at all times, a new lift station will be built next to it and then operations switched over when complete.

The new lift station will consist of a new underground wet well and three submersible pumps, an electrical control building, a backup generator under a canopy for weather protection, and paving a portion of the adjacent City of Mill Creek property for use as trailhead parking. Construction work is expected to last 9-12 months, and the total estimated cost of the project including design and construction is \$2.5 million.

Greenleaf Sewer Pipe Upgrade

In October, the District is partnered with the Brasswood project developer to upgrade the existing sewer pipe capacity in the Greenleaf subdivision, located in the 7900 block of 132nd Place SE.



Three flat sections of 8-inch sewer pipe flowing into the existing Sector 7 Lift Station needed to be upsized to 12-inch for greater capacity. Two of the shallower sections were dug up and replaced using traditional open trench construction methods, but the deeper middle section was replaced using a new pipe bursting technique.



This technique starts with a conical metal “battering ram” head attached to the leading end of the pipe, and then connected with a steel cable through the existing pipe to a hydraulic jack on the other end.

The hydraulic jack forcibly drags a continuous piece of new 12-inch pipe through the existing smaller pipe, bursting it along the way and leaving the new pipe in its place. Side sewer connections to the adjacent homes are then drilled into the new pipe, and switched over with minimal service interruptions.

Using the pipe bursting technique saved the District and the developer both time and money while reducing the amount of disruption to the surrounding neighborhood. The resulting cost to the District for the upgrade work was approximately \$275,000.





Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

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

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit# 1327
Seattle, WA

Silver Lake Water & Sewer District

Address

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

Phone

425-337-3647

Fax

425-337-4399

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

Silver Lake Water and Sewer District's Board of Commissioners' meetings are held the on the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. **Currently, these meetings are being held in a hybrid format (in-person and virtually). Visit our website at www.slwsd.com for more information.**

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

1-877-814-9773

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 Fee

There is a \$3.85 per transaction convenience fee when you pay with a debit/credit card or e-check (when paid by phone, website, or in person).

Inside This Newsletter

Positive Result on District's 2021 Sanitary Water Survey 1

Lower Rates for Low Income Senior or Disabled Persons 1

John Warner, Commissioner..... 2

Protect Your Pipes in Winter..... 2

District Selects New Cellular Technology Water Meters 2

Ongoing Infrastructure Improvements 3

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.