



www.skywayws.org

SKYWAY LINES

September 2024

Have a Blocked Sewer?

The side sewer line between your house and the sewer main is the responsibility of the property owner and can occasionally become blocked for a variety of reasons. If your sewer is blocked outside of your house, call PSE before you clear it. Or have your plumber call. Some natural gas lines have inadvertently been installed through the sewer and septic lines. Clearing the sewer pipe with a cutting tool could break the gas line, allowing gas into your house and creating a dangerous situation. PSE will meet your plumber on-site for free and ensure the sewer or septic line is safe to clear. Learn more at pse.com/sewersafety



Your Opportunity to Vote

Summer has been full of blue skies and sunshine. Fall will bring changes – in the weather, daylight, and students returning to school. Fall is also the time for all registered voters to make their voices heard. The **General Election** is **Tuesday, November 5, 2024**. Be informed on the issues before you vote to ensure your best decision.



CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Design of the **Rainier Ave S/S 113th Watermain Replacement** project continues. The 60% design plans to replace the existing watermain are complete and easements needed for the project have been requested from residents. This project, located east of Rainier Ave S near S 113th St replaces ~1,250 linear feet of 6-inch asbestos cement pipe and 2-inch galvanized pipe with new 8-inch ductile iron pipe and replaces existing water service lines, valves and fire hydrants. Construction is planned for Spring 2025. The project is funded in part by a 20-year low-interest Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA) loan from the Department of Commerce.

By the time this issue goes to print, proposals will have been invited and opened for the **80th Avenue South Sewer Extension** project. The project includes construction of ~850 linear feet of new sewer main along 80th Avenue South north from the 12800 block, across Renton Avenue South, and continuing further north to the intersection at South 126th Street. This extension will make public sewer available to residents currently on septic systems in the project area. Construction is planned for completion by December 2024. The project will also provide the opportunity for sewer service to be expanded to adjacent areas through the formation of a Utility Local Improvement District (ULID) or possibly through other funding options. This current project is funded by the King County Climate Equity Pool and is administered by the Public Health Equitable Wastewater Futures program. For more information, visit: [Equitable Wastewater Futures Program - King County, Washington](#)

Bids were opened on July 19th for the **First Cities Pump Station Pump Replacement** project. After approval by the District’s Board of Commissioners, the contract was awarded to Gary Harper Construction, Inc. The project is located in the Martin Luther King Jr Way S right-of-way and the work includes replacement of two existing sewer pumps and associated pipes and valves; traffic control; removal and disposal of existing pumps, pipes, and valves; installation of new pumps, piping and valves; temporary by-pass pump installation; installation of temporary and permanent fencing; and restoration. Construction is expected to begin this Fall and take about a month to complete.



Check our website at www.skywayws.org for project updates or contact the District at info@skywayws.org or call 206-772-7343 if you would like more information.

As reported in the May 2024 issue, the District received notice of a conditional offer for a 20-year, low interest loan of \$977,000 for the **Skyway Water Tank Nos. 3 & 4 Coating Replacement** project from the Department of Commerce. We are happy to report that the loan contract was signed August 15, 2024. This project includes a condition assessment, design, and construction for rehabilitation of the exterior and interior tank coatings of the two water storage tanks. The work is planned to be done in 2025.





A Fond Farewell

After two incredible years of serving with passion, energy, and professionalism, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks to King County Community Service Officer Victoria "Vickie" Cariello for her hard work and advocacy on behalf of our community. Vickie has been a visible positive presence at community events, actively engaging with residents, asking what she can do to help, and making things happen. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her all the very best in her next undertaking!

Thank you, Vickie!

WHCA News and Updates

Clear your calendars! Save the following dates:

- Tues. October 15: Community Quarterly Meeting
- Sat. October 26: Halloween Takeover
- Tues. November 5: Voter Assistance Booth
- Sat. November 16: Community Coffee Hour

Use the link or QR code below for ways to get updates and support by donating or volunteering!



Our website, socials, & newsletter are great ways to stay in the loop!

MyWestHill.org/connect



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New Department of Local Services (DLS) Director

In July 2024, King County Executive Dow Constantine named Leon Richardson as the next director of the County's Local Services Department. Mr. Richardson began his tenure with King County in 2019 as deputy director of the Adult Services Division in the Department of Community and Human Services. Before his time at King County, he worked for the City of Tukwila and has over 20 years of service in the U.S. Army.

In this new role, Mr. Richardson will lead the County's newest department, which began operations in 2019. DLS serves as a "city hall" for unincorporated King County, connecting residents and businesses in Skyway, White Center, the Snoqualmie Valley, Greater Maple Valley, the Enumclaw Plateau, and Vashon Island to their local government services. DLS also manages programs that directly help communities, including the annual Alan M. Painter Grants and the Community Service Areas, Subarea Planning, Participatory Budgeting, Economic Development, and Community Needs List programs

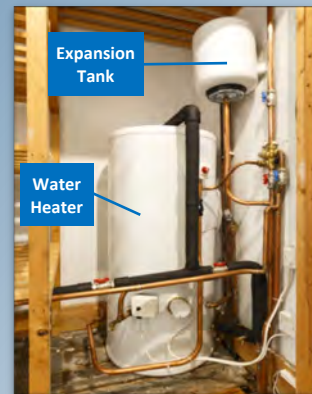
Please join us in welcoming Mr. Richardson to the DLS team and our community!



Water Heater Expansion Tank

For safety and water supply reasons, we want to make sure everyone saw the article in our July 2024 issue, so we want to share a 2nd article on the topic.

A water heater expansion tank (or thermal expansion tank) is a small secondary tank that acts as a safety device to minimize the risk of pressure damage, pipe bursts, and leaks in a home's plumbing system. It activates when expanded hot water overflows from the main hot water tank and pushes against an air cushion within the expansion tank, causing the air cushion to compress and allowing water to flow in. This alleviates the pressure of thermal expansion by giving the expanded hot water a place to go. The size of the expansion tank depends on the size of your hot water tank, the water pressure, and water temperature.



Installing a water heater expansion tank requires a knowledge of local plumbing codes and should be done by a professional. Once installed, routine maintenance should be performed on the expansion tank by a licensed plumber to ensure the tank is performing correctly. If not set correctly, the expansion tank could affect how your water meter reads water consumption.