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SKY LINES

January 2025



HAPPY NEW YEAR

HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED

Skyway Water and Sewer District and The Salvation Army partner to provide financial assistance to individuals and families struggling to pay for their water and sewer services. The program is funded by District rates and customer donations and is administered by the Salvation Army. For more information, call us at 206-772-7343 or the Salvation Army at 425-255-5969 Extension 214.



2024 RATE ASSISTANCE

During 2024 there were 300 qualifying low-income senior or disabled customers that participated in the District's Rate Discount Program. The cost of this program was approximately \$143,069.40 -- \$21,060.12 in water service and \$122,009.28 in sewer service.

CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Design of the **Rainier Ave S/S 113th Watermain Replacement** project continues as easements needed for the project are being obtained 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.

As reported in our last issue, a construction contract was awarded to R.L Alia for the **80th Avenue South Sewer Extension** project. This project includes construction of ~850 linear feet of new sewer main along 80th Avenue South beginning in the 12800 block, then north 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. By the time you receive this newsletter, construction is expected to have begun. This current project is funded by the King County Climate Equity Pool and administered by the Public Health Equitable Wastewater Futures program. For more information, visit: [Equitable Wastewater Futures Program - King County, Washington](https://shorturl.at/ViuL7) (<https://shorturl.at/ViuL7>).



For the latest project updates or additional information, contact the District at 206-772-7343 or send an email to info@skywayws.org.

AVOID A LATE CHARGE

Friendly Reminder: Water and sewer bills are due on the *Due Date* listed on your bill. To avoid a late fee of 10%, payments must be received no later than the 9th day of the month following the due date. Late penalties are assessed on the 10th.

Did you know? If your account is current, you may qualify for a one-time late penalty waiver every 10 years per property owner.

If you have any questions, concerns, or need assistance with your payment, contact us at **206-772-7343** or visit www.skywayws.org.

We're Here to Help!

A BUSY 2024 AND MORE IN 2025

Over the past year we have been quite busy and District staff have continued to work very hard maintaining your water and sewer systems:

- Submitted two applications and were awarded one Department of Commerce Public Works Assistance Account loan in the amount of \$800,000 for the planned Sewer Force Main Replacement - Sunset Station (S22A) capital construction project.
- Collected and analyzed over 9,000 water quality samples to include the last of four quarterly Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) analysis. UCMR 5 requires sample collection and analysis for 30 chemical contaminants between 2023 and 2025 using analytical methods developed by the EPA and consensus organizations.
- Installed 6 new water service connections.
- Cleaned your 9 sewer pump stations weekly.
- Repaired 4 main breaks in your 40 miles of water main and repaired or replaced 22 service lines and 3 fire hydrants.
- Accepted the transfer of sewer facilities constructed by the Maple Ridge Townhomes development located at S 128th St & 66th Ave S including ~751 lineal feet of sewer main, 11 manholes, and 49 side sewer stubs.
- Processed 48 requests for Certificates of Water/Sewer Availability, 42 Applications for Water/Sewer service and 77 Side Sewer Permits.
- Monitored and rebuilt 7 pressure reducing stations.
- Recorded more than 21,000 individual meter readings for water consumption.
- Have converted approximately 70% of the water system to AMR (Automated Meter Reading) by exchanging an additional 565 meters in 2024.
- Maintained and exercised 92 water distribution system valves.



In calendar year 2025, we plan to:

- Construct the Rainier Ave South/South 113th Street capital project to replace approximately 1,250 feet of old and undersized water main pipe.
- Finalize design and advertise the Skyway Park North Phase 1 project to replace approximately 6,100 feet of sewer main pipe, 35 manholes, and 4,000 lineal feet of watermain pipe.
- Convert approximately 565 individual water meters to AMR.
- Deploy leak detection equipment for ongoing water system monitoring and evaluation.

Cold Weather/Winter Storms

Ready or not, winter has arrived!! Here are a few simple things you can do to be prepared.

TO HELP PREVENT FROZEN PIPES:

- Insulate pipes that are in unheated areas such as attics, crawl spaces, garages.
- Drain and wrap or cover outside faucets and hose bibs.
- Shut off and drain in-ground sprinkler systems.
- Close off foundation vents to minimize cold wind from entering your house. Open vents up in the spring.



BEFORE IT DROPS BELOW FREEZING:

Know where your main water shutoff valve is located. If your house does not have a main water shutoff, consider having one installed. If a water pipe breaks, immediately close the main shut-off valve. If you cannot locate the valve, call us at **206-772-7343** or **204-842-4719 after hours** and a District field technician will turn the water off at the meter. Identify several plumbers in advance and keep their numbers handy.

Set your thermostat no lower than 55 degrees Fahrenheit day or night (even if you are away during the winter months)

TO HELP PREVENT FLOODING:

- Clean gutters and downspouts.
- Rake up and properly dispose of fallen leaves.
- Keep storm drains clear.

WHCA News and Updates

- Winter 2025 Community Quarterly Meeting** is Tuesday, January 21, 6:30 p.m. at Lakeridge Elementary. Topics: community garden, heat pumps, and more! Learn more at MyWestHill.org
- Our 2024 recap is online.** check out all the fun things we got up to last year at MyWestHill.org
- Want to support community events and advocacy?** Join us! Volunteers and donors power this work. Learn more at MyWestHill.org/join



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

MyWestHill.org/connect



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