

the SOOS CREEK

CON NECTION

www.sooscreek.com

April/May 2012

District Invests for Future

The District is currently constructing a new lift station (LS), Lift Station 11B. LS 11B is a replacement for the existing LS 11 which was built in 1969 and is nearing the end of its useful life. More importantly, the station is reaching its pumping capacity due to population growth in the service area.

The existing LS 11 site is not large enough to construct another station. The new station is being constructed at a District-owned site approximately 1 block to the north of existing LS 11. The station is being built in an area that is completely surrounded by a residential neighborhood, so it is important that particular care is achieved to maintain the integrity of the surrounding area. This is a high priority for the District and one solution that will be utilized to minimize construction impacts to the neighborhood is a trenchless construction that will re-route the flow from the existing station to the new LS 11B. This method will install the pipe underneath the road, not open cut, minimizing traffic disruptions in the area. Fencing, screening, odor control facilities and emergency generation (for reliability) will all be elements of the site.

Additionally, the District is working jointly with the City of Covington to improve a stormwater detention pond on the site. Once construction on the site is complete, the District will deed the stormwater detention pond to the City of Covington, who will own, operate, and maintain it.

Constructing this new station is a critical element in the District's future investment of its customers and the overall sewage conveyance system. This station receives sewage from the southeastern portion of the District's sewer service area, including portions of Covington and Maple Valley, and from the City of Black Diamond. The sewage ultimately is transported to King County's wastewater treatment plant in Renton. LS 11B will have increased pumping capacity to provide sewer service well into the future to serve the needs of the area. Construction of the station is expected to begin later this spring or early summer.

A "lift station" is a sewage pumping facility. The incoming sewage flow arrives at the station site from gravity collection pipes. The pumps at the station convey the sewage through a pressurized pipe to a location from which the flow can be further transported in a gravity sewer pipe and ultimately to a treatment facility.

Pay Your Bill by Credit or Debit Card – 24 Hours a Day

Take advantage of the District's **Online Payment and Pay-by-Phone** payment options that are available for you 24 hours a day.

Online Payment: Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted over our secure Web server. Log on to www.sooscreek.com, click **Online Payment**, and follow the instructions to see detailed information of your utility account and to pay your account by credit card. Visa and MasterCard payments are accepted for single-family, residential accounts only.

Pay-by-Phone: Soos Creek Water & Sewer District partnered with FIS to offer an option for our residential customers to pay their bills by phone with a Visa or MasterCard. FIS will charge a non-refundable convenience fee of \$3.99 per transaction of which Soos Creek receives no part. Customers can reach the **Pay-by-Phone** service by calling the direct toll free line at 1 (866) 931-3320.

AutoPay: Do you want a payment option that is automated and ensures that your Soos creek utility payments are on-time, every time, without even thinking about it? Then **Soos AutoPay** is for you. There are no checks to write, no postage to pay, and no late fees to worry about because **Soos Auto Pay** does it all for you. Contact our Customer Service Department at (253) 630-9900 today. *You'll enjoy this **FREE** service!*

Savvy Gardener Class – May 5, 2012

Creating a Healthy, Vibrant Garden

By Marianne Binetti, radio show host, author, columnist

Come be inspired by gardening celebrity Marianne Binetti. Learn how to choose plants that will naturally thrive in your garden’s existing sun, shade and soil conditions. Marianne Binetti will highlight some of the best-performing plants for Puget Sound gardens, as well as how to keep them healthy.

Saturday, May 5, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Soos Creek Water & Sewer District, 14616 SE 192nd Street, Renton.



To see the full class listing, including Soos Creek, visit <http://savingwater.org/savvygardenerclasses.htm>

To register: 1. **ONLINE** through Brown Paper Tickets: <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/234694>

2. **PHONE** Brown Paper Tickets at (800) 838-3006

Fix a Leaky Outdoor Faucet

Leaks in outdoor faucets usually occur in two places – the handle and the spout. To fix a leak coming from the handle, try tightening the nut behind the handle with a wrench. If that fails to stop the leak, or if the leak is coming from the spout, you’ll have to take the faucet apart.

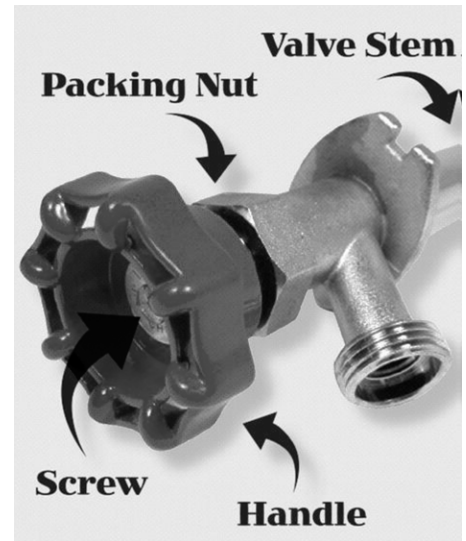
Start by turning off the water supply at your shutoff valve and unscrewing the screw that holds the handle in place. Behind the handle, you’ll find a packing nut. Using a wrench, turn the nut counterclockwise and slide out the valve assembly.

Older valve stem assemblies have two washers – one behind the packing nut and one at the base of the assembly. If the washer behind the packing nut is worn, use a wrench to loosen the nut and take out the washer. Take the old washer to a plumbing supply store to make sure you’re replacing it with the right one.

To replace a worn washer at the base of the valve stem, unscrew the screw that holds the washer in place, remove the worn washer, and replace it with a new, matching one.

Leaks in long frost-free valve stems are more difficult to fix, especially if the leak is inside your wall or if your valve stem is soldered onto your supply line. If you have this type of valve stem, consult a plumbing supply store for advice.

For more information on fixing leaks and step-by-step videos, visit www.savingwater.org/fixaleak or call **206-684-SAVE**.



**SOOS CREEK
WATER & SEWER DISTRICT**
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COMMISSIONERS

Karen Webster
Gary Cline
Alice Marshall
Darold Stroud
Steve Pfaff

DISTRICT MANAGER

Ron Speer

Meetings are held the first, third & fourth
Wednesdays of the month @ 4:30 p.m.

UTILITY RATE REDUCTION PROGRAM

During 2011, 50 low-income permanently disabled and 229 low income senior citizens took advantage of the 25% discount offered through this program. The total annual cost of the program was \$15,121.41. Based on equivalent residential units, this translates into an annual cost of 21 cents for all water customers and 30 cents for all sewer customers.

Effective with the February 29, 2012 billing cycle, the rate reduction has increased to 30%. The discount does not apply to the King County Sewage Treatment charge, actual water consumption, street lighting, surcharges, and miscellaneous fees or late charges. If you would like an application for the District’s Utility Rate Reduction Program, contact us at (253) 630-9900.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Soos Creek, a public agency, is to provide reliable, high quality water and sewer services in an efficient, cost effective manner.