



# Highline Water District

## The Waterline

Summer/Fall 2016

### ***In This Issue***

- City of Des Moines Franchise Fee
- District Says Goodbye to a Good Friend
- Hidden Fire Hydrants
- Senior Discounts: Are You Eligible?
- How To Turn Off Your Water

### ***Contact Information***

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### ***Water District Office***

23828 30th Ave S  
Kent, WA 98032  
www.highlinewater.org  
206-824-0375  
Hours: Monday - Friday  
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### ***Board of Commissioners***

Vince Koester,  
*President*  
Todd Fultz,  
*Secretary*  
Daniel Johnson  
George Landon  
Kathleen  
Quong-Vermeire

## ***City of Des Moines Franchise Fee***

City of Des Moines water rate payers will see a nearly 6% franchise fee added to their water bill starting September 1, 2016. Although the District would have preferred City residents pay no additional fee, it is much better than the 16% utility tax the City was planning to add to water and sewer bills last October. Thanks to strong opposition by Highline Water District, Midway Sewer District, Southwest Suburban Sewer District, and many city citizens, the City Council decided it was in everyone's best interest to work on a franchise agreement with the three utility districts rather than imposing the 16% utility tax. The only other alternative was for the respective districts' to litigate the City's proposed utility tax with an uncertain outcome at the Supreme Court level. After months of negotiations, the utility districts agreed to pay the City a 6% franchise fee for the right to operate within the City's public rights of way. The 10-year franchise agreement includes provisions for better communication and cost sharing on certain capital improvement projects within the City's roadways. The average single family resident with an \$80.00 bi-monthly water bill will pay an additional \$4.78 City Franchise Fee. The District will collect the fees but keep none of it; instead it will remit most of it to the City and a small portion to the State.

## ***The District Says Goodbye to a Good Friend***

If you've had an opportunity to visit our District office, you were more than likely greeted by Gunny, a bulldog who has owned our hearts since he was a 3 month old puppy. He came to work every day for 10 years with his human, Al Metz. Gunny reminded us that nothing was as bad as it seemed, and a pat on the head coupled with a doggy treat could get you through nearly any situation. Unfortunately, old age and stomach cancer took its toll and we were forced to say goodbye. We miss him terribly as we remember what a truly "Best Friend" this dog was.





## How To Turn Off Your Water Meter

Customers should generally turn off their water with their home valves. If your home does not have a water shut-off valve, we highly recommend that you contact a plumber to install one. To shut off your water with the shut-off valve in the meter box, use an adjustable wrench to turn the valve **CLOCKWISE** (see picture below). Go to [www.highlinewater.org](http://www.highlinewater.org)—press the customer tab and go to Forms library, press customers tab and go to [How to turn off your meter instructions](#).



*Providing safe, clean water to residents of South King County since 1946*

## Hidden Fire Hydrants

Is your dog the only one who knows where the neighborhood fire hydrant is? Hopefully not! Fire crews need to quickly find the nearest hydrant if there is a fire. Hidden hydrants cause needless delays. As landscape encroaches into the public right-of-way our fire hydrants can become hidden from view. Highline Water District stresses the importance of keeping fire hydrants free of overgrown vegetation or other obstructions such as fences, rockeries, cars or construction debris.



To prevent or minimize the loss of property or life, it is imperative that the Fire Department can gain access to a hydrant as quickly as possible. Fire crews need the area 3 feet around the hydrant to be clear.



If you notice that a fire hydrant is damaged, missing caps, leaking water, or if it is blocked or obstructed in any way, please notify Highline Water District by calling 206-824-0375, or send an email to our customer service mailbox: [CS@Highlinewater.org](mailto:CS@Highlinewater.org). Hidden fire hydrants are a safety concern. Help us

make your neighborhood a little safer!

## Senior Citizen / Disabled Low Income Discounts

A Senior Citizen / Disabled discount is available on water service charges for qualified customers in the Highline Water District service area. To be eligible for the discount, you must be receiving a low-income Senior Citizen or Disabled person property tax reduction from King County. Please visit <http://www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/TaxpayerAssistance/TaxRelief.aspx> or call 206-296-3920 for more information and to obtain a tax relief form. Once you are approved for property tax relief, contact our office to apply for the reduced water rate. Your base rate will be reduced 35% to \$18.72 per 2-month billing cycle.



A tenant at least 61 years of age or permanently disabled, with a combined household income of less than \$35,000 per year may also be eligible for a discount by completing our form, providing proof of age and a copy of their most current tax return.

Highline Water District currently provides 267 discounts, saving our low-income elderly and disabled consumers approximately \$16,148 per year.