



23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington  
(206) 824-0375

Fall/Winter 2017

# The WaterLine Newsletter

Water-Related News and Information from Highline Water District

## Important Updates:

- ✓ *New water utility rates for 2018*
- ✓ *Senior & disabled discounts available*
- ✓ *Autopay bill service gets even easier*
- ✓ *How to winterize your pipes*



## New Water Rates for 2018

*Starting January 1, 2018, Highline Water District is raising water rates by 2.6%.*

An average single family residential customer using 600 cubic feet (6 ccf) of water per winter month, and 800 cubic feet (8 ccf) of water per summer month, will see their monthly bill increase by approximately \$1.00 per month (\$2.00 for a two month billing cycle) beginning January 1, 2018.

### Higher Wholesale Water Costs

The primary reason for the adjustment is an increase in the cost of water: Seattle Public Utilities is raising wholesale water rates to the District and other water agencies by approximately 5.5% annually for the next three years, starting January 1, 2018.

A portion of the increase will also be used to replace aging water pipes, and address inflationary expenses.

Single Family Residence Meter Size	2018 Monthly Base Rate	2018 Winter Rate 10/1-5/31	2018 Summer Rate (0 to 5 ccf) 6/1-9/30	2018 Summer Rate (6+ ccf) 6/1-9/30
Low Income, Senior, or Disabled	\$ 9.85	\$3.73	\$3.73	\$4.42
5/8" or 3/4"	\$15.15	\$3.73	\$3.73	\$4.42
1"	\$26.96	\$3.73	\$3.73	\$4.42
1.5"	\$45.76	\$3.73	\$3.73	\$4.42
2"	\$70.23	\$3.73	\$3.73	\$4.42

## Discounts Available for Seniors and Disabled Persons

*Highline Water District currently provides 279 discounts to low income elderly and disabled consumers, amounting to approximately \$17,309 per year. Do you qualify for a discount?*

### Senior Discount Eligibility:

*If you own and reside in the residence that will receive the discount, you need to be enrolled in and receiving the low income Senior Citizen or Disabled Persons property tax reduction from King County. If you are not receiving this property tax reduction, call the County at (206) 296-3920, or visit their website at:*

[www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/TaxpayerAssistance/TaxRelief.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/Assessor/TaxpayerAssistance/TaxRelief.aspx)

*If you do not own the residence in which you reside, contact Highline Water District directly to apply for your discount at (206) 824-0375.*

### Disabled Discount Eligibility:

You must be at least 61 years of age and permanently disabled, with a combined household income of less than \$40,000 per year.

### How to Request the Discount:

Once you have met the required eligibility criteria, contact our office at (206) 824-0375 to obtain the application form, and return the completed form to us with the required documents to prove your eligibility.

Your rate reduction will be \$10.60 per 2 month billing cycle, for standard residential water meters (under 1").

## Project Updates

*Below are a few examples of how your rates are being reinvested to improve aging water systems from Federal Way to Normandy Park:*



*Above: the installation of new connection valves aid in controlling the flow of water during emergencies.*



*Above: our crew adjusts two newly installed valves to ensure they are properly blocked before final cover.*



*Above: a new "bend" in the water main allows us to connect to an existing main, eliminating dead ends and stagnant water.*

## Improved Autopay Billing Service

*How would you like to...*

1. Save time...
2. Save the cost of postage...
3. Avoid late payment penalties and fees...
4. Have one less thing to remember in life...?

Highline Water District offers a service to make your life easier: autopay billing. And it's just gotten better!

When we first launched this service, it had to be connected to a bank account. Now however, our autopay billing service allows you to pay via e-check, debit card, and credit card too!

### Here's How it Works:

Sign up at [www.highlinewater.org](http://www.highlinewater.org), and your water bill will be automatically deducted on the date that your bill is due, from whatever credit card / debit card, or checking account that you specify.

## Winter is Coming...

### Protect your Pipes in 4 Easy Steps:

1. Disconnect and drain garden hoses. 
2. Insulate exterior pipes and faucets.
3. Insulate interior pipes and faucets in cold areas (including unheated attics, basements, garages and crawl spaces).
4. Locate your master water shut-off valve and test it **prior** to an emergency.

### Additional Precautions:

- If you have a yard sprinkler system, drain and blow out the system completely.
- On extra cold nights, open the doors of closets or cabinets that are located near water pipes on your home's exterior walls.
- For maximum protection, apply caulk around incoming pipes, and close or block your home's foundation vents during the coldest months (open them up once the threat of freezing has passed, in order to prevent dry rot).

**The WaterLine Newsletter is brought to you by Highline Water District and its Board of Commissioners:**

Todd Fultz (President), Daniel Johnson (Secretary), Vince Koester, George Landon, and Kathleen Quong-Vermeire.

Contact us Monday through Friday from 7:00 am through 4:00 pm at (206) 824-0375 or [customerservice@highlinewater.org](mailto:customerservice@highlinewater.org)

Visit us at 23828 30th Avenue South, Kent, Washington 98032 • [www.highlinewater.org](http://www.highlinewater.org)