



# THE PIPELINE

Winter 2019  
Issue 93

Serving this Community  
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District  
Customers Informed

\*[www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org)

- \*Click on:
- ⇒ About Us
- ⇒ Commissioner Matters
- ⇒ Minutes
- ⇒ Resolutions

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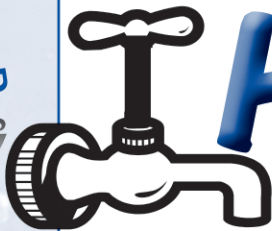
## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr.  
Vice President:  
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Secretary:  
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General Manager:  
Randall M. Black

The Board of Commissioners meets  
the 3rd Thursday of each month  
at the District  
office - 9:30 pm.  
Public Welcome



[www.lakewoodwater.org](http://www.lakewoodwater.org)



Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

As you read this (if you do), we will have adopted our 2019 Budget on December 20. One can get a little bleary-eyed reviewing and reporting on all 75 pages of it, so let's discuss just a couple of the numbers we dealt with.

(1) We currently serve over 60,000 "retail" customers (that's you) and, in addition, we provide water on a "wholesale" basis to the Town of Steilacoom and the Summit area (Summit Water & Supply Co.).

We have additional wholesale contracts with Spanaway and Rainier View water companies, with a potential new wholesale customer in Firgrove Mutual Water Company in 2019.

(2) We maintain, repair, and replace when necessary 32 wells, 13 reservoirs, and 286 miles (yes, that's miles) of water mains (pipes of various sizes from 2-inch to 20-inch), together with all supporting structures.

(3) We do this with just 33 talented and hard-working employees whose value to the District we reflect with competitive compensation and benefits.

(4) This year, your District is looking at the largest capital project year of its history, with over \$30M in capital and R&R (Replacement & Rehabilitation) projects. The "centerpiece" project will be the Wholesale Transmission Main Extension, a 6.8-mile extension of the District's current Wholesale Transmission Main, costing just under \$20M. The WTME will provide "front-door" service of the District's surplus water to other water purveyors in Pierce County.

The win-win-win-win of this very large and significant project is 1) we don't waste the District's (your) water that doesn't get

used now (if it doesn't get used, it flows out into the Puget Sound, no longer drinkable); 2) we'll get paid for this water, which will 3) help buy-down future rate increases for our customers (you); and 4) our wholesale partners are paying their fair share of the costs for the WTME.

In order to cover the ever-increasing costs of doing business, continue the capital improvement and R&R projects, manage to our financial policies, and maintain respectable reserves, our rate model told us a rate increase of 8.0 percent was necessary for 2019. A good portion of this increase is due to a large, unplanned expense of a needed GAC (Granular Activated Carbon) treatment system at our Ponders Wellsite to eliminate all levels of PFOS and PFOA, at the tune of \$2.5M. The District is already in the process of working toward an agreement with the government to get reimbursed for the costs we've incurred in dealing with these contaminants that are very likely from JBLM.

If it will ease your pain a little, consider that the average two-month bill for the typical District customer with a 5/8-inch meter and 1,500 cubic feet of water use is currently \$46.73. After the increase, it will be \$50.09, only \$3.36 more every two months and only \$1.68 more a month. Our rates continue to be by far the lowest of all water purveyors in the county. We're proud of that and will continue to work toward maintaining those bragging rights. For more information on the 2019 Budget, please visit our website.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and have a great 2019.  
Your Board of Commissioners

## Commissioner Meeting Highlights

### October

Open Government Training for Commissioners  
2019 Budget Workshop with the Board

### November

Presentation of the 2019 Draft Budget  
Board Award of Ponders Wellsite Pump Station Project  
Board Conditional Acceptance of Completion of the Lake Steilacoom Drive R&R Project

### December

Board Adoption of the 2019 Budget  
Board Adoption of Resolution No. B-1448, 2019 Rate Increase  
Board Adoption of Resolution No. B-1449, Local Government Pool Authorization to Invest

For more information, please visit our website. \*

# 2018—Lakewood Water District's 75th Anniversary Year in Review

2018 marked the 75th Anniversary of Lakewood Water District and its commitment to providing clean, safe, drinking water to the citizens of Lakewood and the surrounding area. Established on June 1, 1943 with our very first Resolution, our District continues to grow to properly serve our ever-growing community. Throughout the year, our staff, customers, vendors, and consultants participated in several activities, dedicated commemorative items, and worked to educate our community on our District's mission to celebrate this milestone. Here's a review of some of the highlights.

## 75th Anniversary Celebration—2018 Timeline in Review

February 2018—the reveal of our new 75th Anniversary logo and our new moto of commitment to our customers, “Our Water, Our Community, Our Commitment.”

April 2018—we presented our new billing statements that provide a clearer, more concise explanation of how we measure your water usage and how it equates to the dollar amount on your bi-monthly billing.

June 2018—we commissioned the engraving of a large stone from A&J Creations with our 75th Anniversary seal on it to be displayed in the garden area of our front office. This serves as a symbol of our pride in our history and of our lasting commitment to the community we serve.

July 2018—the Lakewood Water District participated in Summerfest 2018 where we had water fun-facts and give-aways for our customers and provided a dunk tank as a fun way to celebrate our good water and a chance for others to donate to our Customer Assistance Program (CAP).

August 2018—the District hosted a Site & Virtual Tour on August 24. This event was free to the public and allowed our customers to see the office space, meet the staff, and get a tour of our on-site wells, with an up-close view of the equipment we use on a regular basis. Inside the Board Room, we offered lunch, a virtual tour of our facilities, a gift bag, and introduced our children's education booklet to help our youngest citizens to learn about how they get Lakewood Water.

Later we had the opportunity to help feed the hungry by donating all extra food and gift bags to the Christ Enrichment Church on Steilacoom Boulevard.

October 2018—we purchased an aquifer model to assist all in learning how the water is pumped out of the aquifer, into the well, and moved toward the surface. This display will be in our front office for all to enjoy!

Thank you for helping us celebrate this occasion and for your continued confidence in our District to serve you for years to come.

## New Mailing Address for LWD Payments

You may have noticed in your recent billings that our mailing address for bill payments has changed to **PO Box 34051, Seattle WA 98124**. Do not be alarmed! We are still located in the same spot we have been for many years, nestled in amongst our beloved residents of Lakewood, on Gravelly Lake Drive. And yes, we do still have a payment drop-box located to the right of our front door, so please stop by anytime!

The reason for the change in mailing address for billing payments is simply and truly to better serve you, our customers. Historically, we typically received over a hundred payments daily in the mail, which our Customer Service Representatives would then open and sort by hand and would then enter each payment into the system. We now have a third-party service that will be taking care of our mail processing for payments. This not only allows our Customer Service Representatives to be more available to assist with you on the phone or in person, but it is more cost-effective as well! We apologize for any confusion this may have caused. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the matter, please feel free to contact one of our friendly Customer Service Representatives directly at 253-588-4423.

