



# THE PIPELINE

Spring 2017  
Issue 87

Serving this Community  
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District  
Customers Informed

\*[www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org)

\*Click on:

- ⇒ About Us
- ⇒ Commissioner Matters
- ⇒ Minutes
- ⇒ Resolutions

## Commissioner Meeting Highlights

### January

Board adoption of Resolution No. B-1438,  
2017 Rate Increase  
Board adoption of 2017  
Developer's Extension Agreement

### February

Board conditional acceptance of  
completion of Reservoir Seismic  
Retrofits Project, Phase 1  
Board approval of donation of  
old ChlorTec T-36 onsite chlorine generators  
to City of Bainbridge Island

### March

Board conditional acceptance of  
completion of Seattle Avenue Project  
Board award of Sylvan Park Phase 2  
R&R Project contract to  
Johnson & Maddox Construction, Inc.  
Board award of Ponders Well Site  
Stainless Steel Packed Towers Project  
contract to Tonka Water  
Board award of April 2017-March 2018  
Backflow Testing Program contract  
to Backflows Northwest  
For more information, please visit our website. \*

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

We receive questions from time to time relating to our operations, most of which we can answer briefly; some, however, are asked often enough for us to think you all might be interested in some broader responses.

In this quarterly epistle, we'll address a couple of them.

In answer to recent inquiries triggered by media accounts of the water quality (or lack thereof) of Waughop Lake in Fort Steilacoom Park, the District does not draw water from the lake. Who on earth would drink green water? We have no wells in the park. Any wells we do maintain in neighborhoods abutting it draw from deep aquifers unaffected by problems of the lake.

The water towers you see on the northwest corner of the park are not ours but are part of a separate water system owned and operated by Western State Hospital. To serve any emergency need they may have, we are positioned to provide them water; however, that has happened rarely over the years.

You may have read or heard that the State Department of Health, in testing the water quality of wells at McChord Field, has detected low levels of two chemical compounds emanating from a foam retardant used for practicing the extinguishing of fuel and aircraft fires. We can't resist reporting their names, "perfluorohexanesulfoic" and "perfluoroetanesulfonic." Try saying those three times ... or even once!

Since one of our wells (Ponders Well Site) is downstream from theirs, we have tested ours. We show very low, if almost undetectable, traces of both chemicals. Nothing to worry about. Even so, treatment for them will be added to our new facilities planned to be built at the Ponders Well Site in the near future, as soon as we get the money (for those of you who pray, please do so for our legislature that they will grant us our request for the remaining \$1.8M needed to fund this project... it's currently on the Governor's Budget; for those of you who don't pray, please cross your fingers or make some other hopeful gesture to help "pull" for us to get these most needed funds).

Be hopeful. It will stop raining, the sun will appear, the Mariners will win 90 games, and the Bachelor and Bachelorette will find love.

Have a good Spring.  
Your Board of Commissioners

## Online Bill-pay Imposters Amongst Us!

It has recently come to our attention that several websites have, without the District's knowledge or consent, set up unauthorized bill payment sites, utilizing our District logo, and presenting themselves as a valid LWD pay site. They are **NOT**. Therefore, **DO NOT USE ANY SITE OTHER THAN THE DISTRICT'S WEBSITE TO PAY YOUR DISTRICT ACCOUNT**. That means you need to check and make sure the website you are on is [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org).

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### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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



\*[www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org)



## Online Bill-pay Imposters Amongst Us! (continued from page 1)

These sites are *not* authorized by the District to take your payments on the District's behalf. If your payment is not made on our District website, there is no guarantee your payment will get to us or get to us on time, possibly causing delayed payment to your account and possible delinquent status. Additionally, the District has no means to track your payment when made on one of these unauthorized sites. Further, *the District does not charge you a fee* to pay on our website, but these sites do.

*Therefore, to make sure your payment gets received and processed in a responsible and timely manner and without charge to you, please make all online payments on our website at [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org) and click on "Pay Your Bill Online."*



## Michael Wall into the Sunset

By Bob Brooks & Co.

*[Editor's Note: At a recent retirement celebration for our beloved character, coworker, and friend, J. Michael Wall, he "stole the show" and turned what was designed to be a friendly "roast" of him into a roast of each and every one of the staff! We laughed non-stop, heartily and, at times, hysterically for over 40 minutes. It was priceless...and a testament to the staff and the camaraderie we share. The writing below is in honor of Michael...and is our opportunity to finally at least 'mini-roast' him...and attempt to get in the last word.] Please enjoy.*



So, let us tell you about Michael Wall. A little over 5 years ago, this vertically challenged guy walks into Lakewood Water District, ready to work. He has been fairly boring over the course of his work life. Michael put himself through college working in the slow-paced field of fire jumping. After wrestling with Smoky the Bear, Michael and his family decided to move out of the woods and into the big city. Michael worked as an electric meter reader in the big city of Lakewood for years. When that mountain was climbed, he decided being a teacher was a nice, slow pace to finish out his career. After years and years of only working partial days (Not), the weekends off (Nope), and summers off (Kind of), Michael was ready for a more exciting way of life. This is where Lakewood Water District comes in.

Michael was convinced to work with us as a meter reader once he saw the awesome sight of the Grumman truck he was assigned to. It was a match made in heaven. Michael has become the Grumman whisperer. To all others who drive the misunderstood beast, it's usually a tow home, but Michael and the Grumman have an unspoken understanding of love and patience. We can only hope that the new handler of the Grumman can have the same unconditional respect for it that Michael has.

And now this...Michael Wall has been one of the best Lakewood Water District employees period! He has a deep love and commitment to his family. He is a man who whenever possible is on Mt. Tahoma, bringing joy to his heart and anyone on the trail who will listen to him about the mountain's REAL NAME! He has very good taste in music and can pick at the strings with beauty and ease. Michael can sing and probably dance. If there is a book written that he has not read, then it is because it's in a foreign language, but he has probably tried. He is an old soul in a young body who will always be remembered kindly by everyone who has ever worked with him. He has always been kind, wise, and has encouraging words. We wish him and his family the best in retirement and many, many, many happy years.

Happy Trails, Michael!

## LWD Backflow Testing Program to Save You Time and \$

Last year about this time, we let you know about our new Backflow Testing Program where those of you with backflow devices could have your devices tested automatically for a fee of only \$27/year per device. Our testing this past year has been completed by Backflows Northwest, and Backflows Northwest has again presented the District with the lowest bid to continue this service this year, from April 2017 thru March 2018... and all for the same low price of \$27 per year per device!

If you have a backflow device and have not yet joined our program but would like to, simply follow these steps:

1. Go to our website at [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org) and scroll down the Home Page to "Announcements"
2. Click on "LWD Backflow Testing Program"
3. Click on "Automatic Backflow Testing and Right of Entry Agreement"
4. Download the agreement, fill it out, sign & date it, and return it to the District via either email ([wslemp@lakewood-water-dist.org](mailto:wslemp@lakewood-water-dist.org)), fax (253/588-7150), mail (PO Box 99729, Lakewood, WA, 98496-0729), or bring it into the District Office.

You can also get a copy of the agreement by coming into the office or by calling and requesting one to be emailed, faxed, or mailed to you. If you have any questions, just give us a call at 253/588-4423.