



THE PIPELINE

Winter 2017
Issue 86

Serving this Community
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

*www.lakewood-water-dist.org

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

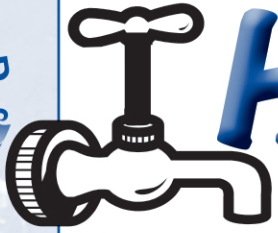
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
 President:
Lawrence R. Ghilarducci, Jr.
 Vice President:
John S. Korsmo, Jr.
 Secretary:
Gregory J. Rediske
 General Manager:
Randall M. Black

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



*www.lakewood-water-dist.org



Commissioner Meeting Highlights

October
2017 Budget Kickoff at
Budget Workshop

November
Draft 2017 Budget
presented to Board

December
Final 2017 Budget
approved by Board
Board award of Thorne Lane
R&R Project to
Pape & Sons, Inc.

For more information, please visit our website. *

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

As you read this (if you do), we will have adopted our 2017 Budget. One can get a little bleary-eyed reviewing and reporting on all 67 pages of it, so let's discuss just a couple of the numbers we dealt with.

(1) We currently serve 16,659 "retail" customers (that's you) and, in addition, we provide water on a "wholesale" basis to the Town of Steilacoom and the Summit View area (Summit Water & Supply Co.).

(2) We maintain, repair, and replace when necessary 32 wells, 13 reservoirs, and 256 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 29 talented and hard-working employees whose value to the District we reflect with competitive compensation and benefits.

(4) We project total operating revenue at slightly under \$10,450,000, operating expenses at slightly under \$3,600,000, maintenance expenses at just over \$3,700,000, and miscellaneous expenses net of some relatively small income sources (primarily interest on our long-term debt) at just over \$55,000.

The resulting net income is applied toward our planned capital improvement projects, an annual water main replacement program, and the maintenance of our cash reserves.

In order to cover the ever-increasing costs of doing business and continuing the capital improvement projects and the replacement program and managing to our financial policies and maintaining respectable reserves, our Rate Model and Five-year Rate Forecast told us a 4.5 percent rate increase was necessary. So we listened and approved the increase. Sorry, folks, but we had to do it.

In fact, last year, when the Board had to ask the hard questions of what it would take in the way of rate increases to manage to our financial policies and bring our reserves up to appropriate levels and maintain them, the Rate Model and Five-year Forecast told us we needed double-digit increases for 2016 and 2017. Once your Commissioners were revived from that coronary, we asked our staff to normalize these needed increases over the next five years. We figured you'd rather incur small rate increases over time versus two whopping ones right in a row.

If it will ease your pain a little, consider that the average two-month bill for the typical Lakewood Water District customer with a 5/8-inch meter and 1,500 cubic feet of water use is currently \$42.26. After the increase, it will be \$44.40, only \$2.14 more every two months or only \$1.07 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.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you, and have a great 2017.

Your Board of Commissioners



Direct Phone Number to Pay Your Bill



(253)292-4377

Did You Get the Call??



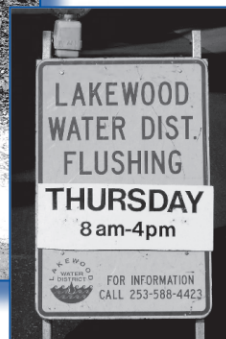
SEASONAL FLUSHING COMING YOUR WAY:

Lakewood Water District staff will once again perform the annual flushing of our water mains from the first week of April thru the first week of June. We perform high-velocity flushing of our system, pulling water from a storage tank or reservoir, then proceeding from hydrant to hydrant, turning them on full speed out of the front pumper port. This action causes a scouring of the inside of the water mains.

Flushing occurs between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Blue-and-white street notification signs will be placed in your neighborhood 48 hours in advance to let you know when the District's flushing crew will be coming to your area.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org to see when we will be coming to your neighborhood. If you have any questions, please call 588-4423.

Thank you for your cooperation.



From time to time, our staff or IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system may need to get important information to you in a hurry. To do that, we need to have a good, working phone number for you on file. Please help us by making sure we have your **phone number!**

We'd also welcome your **email address** in case we need to send you written or more permanent information.

You can do this in a number of ways...

- call us at 588-4423;
- email us at

csweb@lakewood-water-dist.org;

- send us a message via our Website at

www.lakewood-water-dist.org

under "Contact Us";

- write your number and/or email address on your next bill stub w/your payment; or,
- best of all,
- come in and see us!

Thank you so much for helping us help you better!

Warm Wishes for a Happy, Healthy, Prosperous 2017

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

from the Staff of Lakewood Water District

