

THE PIPELINE

Fall, 2015
Issue 81

Serving this Community
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

*www.lakewood-water-dist.org

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Commissioner Meeting Highlights

June

Board adopted Resolution No.B-1423, approving new Employee Education Assistance Program

July

Board awarded Seismic Improvements Project on 5 tanks to T Bailey, Inc.
Board awarded Veterans Phase 4 R&R Project to South Bay Excavating

August

Final Analysis/Study Report on Ponders Well Site Approved by Board
Board Determination re: Public Bidding of District Backflow Testing

For more information, please visit our website. *

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

Our hearts go out to the people of California, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, and other states that faced and/or are still facing drought conditions this year. Thankfully, our Lakewood Water District did not have to face such daunting realities. We are very fortunate to have an abundant water system and supply.

When Governor Inslee declared a drought emergency on May 16 for the State of Washington due to the historically low mountain snow pack and low spring rain levels, Lakewood Water District reported normal water level conditions in our 30 active wells. We prepared a Press Release that was published in the local Lakewood electronic newspaper, "The Suburban Times" and was also sent to "The News Tribune" and posted on our website.

The lack of snow pack had severe negative impacts on the agricultural industry in our state, especially in Central and Eastern Washington. These areas, along with utilities like Seattle, Tacoma, and Everett, get their drinking water from lakes and rivers and rely on snow pack for their major source of recharge for their water supply.

Fortunately, and thankfully, lack of snow pack does not affect our water levels; rainfall does. Even with the snow pack at 16% of normal in some areas of the Olympic and Cascade ranges at that time, the overall annual rainfall amount was just under normal levels.

Lakewood Water District is a ground-water system with 30 active wells penetrating any one of four area aquifers (a water-bearing stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel). The aquifers are dependent on seasonal recharge from local precipitation (rain) rather than mountain snowpack.

The aquifer levels in the Lakewood area were within normal ranges for this time of year, which means Lakewood Water District did not experience water shortage or drought conditions, nor should in the foreseeable future unless conditions we saw this year were to persist for several years.

Lakewood Water District is participating, along with other regional water purveyors in Western Washington, in a study determining the long-range effects of drought, climate change, water quality, and seismic events. After examining 30 years of precipitation, temperature, and consumption data, it is apparent it will take multiple consecutive years of well below average rainfall accompanied by multiple years of increasing annual average temperatures and increasing water use demand to significantly impact the aquifer system and the District's ability to provide water to its customers.

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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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



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Since the last dry period that affected the District in the late 1980s, new transmission mains, 12 million gallons of additional storage, additional booster pump facilities, an aquifer management telemetry system, and two new wells have been constructed to ensure system redundancy and resiliency in any type of conditions.

So, if you let your lawn go brown or didn't water your outside plants like you usually do this summer, we hope it was because you just didn't feel like going out in the heat, or because you were drinking so much more water or making more ice to keep yourself cool. While we always encourage wise water usage, we are thankful and proud to report we had plenty of water for our customers and community. Again, we are very fortunate and most blessed.

Serving you,
Your Board of Commissioners

Miles Landon Retires

On June 30 of this year, we celebrated Miles Landon, his 30-year career at Lakewood Water District, and the beginning of his repertoire of retirement.

Miles began his career at Lakewood Water District on June 24, 1985. Shortly thereafter, the District acquired the American Lake Gardens area, and Miles helped install the District's new water distribution system, putting in new water mains and services. Miles went on to serve in many capacities at the District, including that of Foreman, Department Head, Construction Inspector, Safety Officer, and Water Quality Specialist, in charge of the Cross Connection Control Program and Wellhead Protection.

Miles was well-known and well-liked, as evidenced by the multitude of vendors, consultants, contractors, suppliers, city and county public works staff, General Managers and staff from fellow water utilities and the local fire district, customers, family, and friends, along with our staff and Board of Commissioners who attended a special open-house reception for Miles the previous Friday.

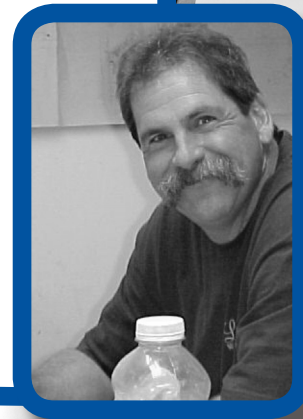
Miles had a number of long suits, none more important than his care for our customers and his way of graciously and smoothly handling the most difficult of situations. Many customers over the years called the District and asked for Miles by name to answer their questions or take care of their concerns. And Miles always did it with that big smile of his.

At the end of the day, we watched a man of many talents and over 30 years of institutional knowledge and experience wave to us with that smile from ear to ear as he walked out the door of Lakewood Water District and headed for the relished realms of retirement...i.e., at least initially, the golf course. We miss him and wish him well...even if he does get to golf while we are still here working. 😊 Seriously, we wish him and his wife, Laurie all the best in a long, happy, healthy retirement.



General Manager Randy Black adds Miles to the District's list of "Honored Employees"

From work force to golf course —
This one speaks for itself!



Miles Landon, dedicated employee
6/24/85-6/30/15



Is that a hole-in-one about to happen on his cupcake?



Miles on the "Throne of Honor" on his last day at LWD.