

# THE PIPELINE

Spring 2015  
Issue 79

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

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Matters

⇒ Minutes

⇒ Resolutions

Published by  
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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



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## Commissioner Meeting Highlights

### December

Board approved/adopted  
2015 Budget

Board adopted Resolution No. B-1421—  
overall, weighted rate increase of 4%  
Board awarded Sound Transit Main Relocation Project  
(Pt. Defiance Bypass) to Pape & Sons  
Board awarded Wisteria R&R Project to  
Waunch Construction & Trucking

### January

Board awarded Steilacoom Boulevard R&R Project  
to Pape & Sons  
Board approves LWD 2007  
John Deere 310J Backhoe as Surplus

### February

Board awarded contract for purchase of  
2015 60G John Deere Mini-excavator to  
Papé Machinery  
Board approved 2015 Developer's  
Extension Agreement

For more information, please visit our website. \*

Dear Lakewood Water District Customers,

As of this writing, in furtherance of our Meter Replacement Program, we have installed over 16,000 new water meters in the District. That is one heck of a lot of meters. It has not been an easy task. In order to expedite the process, our own staff eased the way for the installation contractors by clearing overgrown vegetation blocking access to many meter boxes, cleaning out the meter boxes, and rebuilding the "lids" on some boxes to accommodate the new meters. Their efforts cut the cost of installation significantly. We've been advised by our contractors that, in part due to our own efforts, they have been able to accomplish a meter replacement installation on average in less than thirty minutes. By the time you receive this message, we should have completed this program.

What are we doing with the old meters? We sold them by the pound for scrap.

Apparently, everyone involved did a good job alerting our customers to their individual water "down time" during installation since we've only had a few complaints from the inconvenience of exchanging out the meters. Thank you for all your patience and understanding. Congratulations to our staff and contractors for a tough job well done. Now on to the replacement of more water mains, a much larger and slower project, ripping up roads for years... only 49 to go in our 50-year R&R Program.

We must be doing something right. For the umpteenth year in a row, we received a clean bill of health from the State Auditor for our operations through 2013. It is a real pleasure to sit in their "exit conference" and hear how perfect we are (of course, we tell ourselves all the time. 😊) Congratulations to our entire staff and specifically our resident Cougar, Finance Director David Logan for these results. If only his beloved football team could do as well!

Have a great spring.

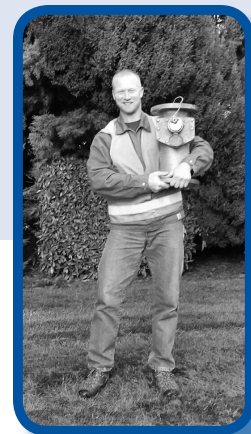
Warm regards,  
Your Board of Commissioners



Pape & Sons installs 3-inch meter for Dower Elementary School.



A 1-inch Iperl with an AMI radio.



Shaun holding a 6-inch Rockwell meter.



## Lakewood Water District Launches Customer Assistance Program (CAP)

In the last edition of *The Pipeline*, we discussed the launching of a new program to provide our customers with some relief during troubling times. We are proud to announce the new Customer Assistance Program (CAP) will be available on May 1.

The CAP affords our customers the opportunity to donate funds to help those who may be in need of assistance in paying their water bill. The District has entered into a partnership with Living Access Support Alliance (LASA) located here in Lakewood.

LASA's Outreach Program is dedicated to helping those in the community with paying utility bills, assisting in payments for a bus ticket, and even rental and housing assistance. And we should not fail to mention, the program is managed by a valuable group of volunteers who are ready to lend a hand. While Lakewood Water District still has the lowest water rates in the surrounding areas, our customer service representatives here in the office know all too well of the many hardships and obstacles some of our customers endure, and that at times, paying the water bill can be a struggle. This is why we are excited about the CAP!

Lakewood Water District serves over 69,700 people in our service area, each a valuable member of our community which forms the very foundation of our District. We now have another opportunity to give back to the public and support those who support us. Donations will be accepted by anyone who wants to contribute to the CAP account, and they can be made directly on your billing statement, on our website, or in our office. The funds raised for the CAP will be designated exclusively for Lakewood Water District customers in helping them pay their water bill and will be administered by LASA. We hope this new program will provide our customers with a sense of comfort in knowing we are here to help our customers help each other, and we cannot wait for the success the program will have and the opportunities it will present. For more details on this Customer Assistance Program, please visit our website at [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org).

## No Drought Conditions for LWD

You no doubt have seen by now news reports of a potential summer/fall drought in the eastern portion of our state due to a lack of snowfall and abnormally warm winter temperatures. Thanks to a plentiful water supply from deep aquifers beneath the ground, Lakewood Water District is experiencing no water shortages.

Even though the snow pack is down considerably, rainfall levels—and our well levels—are within the normal range. The District is a ground-water system whose 30 active deep wells are dependent on seasonal recharge from precipitation (rain) rather than mountain snow-pack. After examining 30 years of precipitation, temperature, and consumption data, it is apparent it would take multiple years of declining 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.

So unless you receive word directly from the District concerning local drought conditions, you need not alter your wise water-use practices this summer or anytime in the foreseeable future.

## No Time Loss for 1,538 Days...and Counting

Safety comes first at LWD. Our staff faithfully complies with L&I (Labor & Industries) and OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards and safety practices, and we are proud to report our staff has gone without any time loss from injury for 1,538 straight days...and counting! As of March 18, 2015, we have gone for over four years without an injury resulting in missing work. We work hard, smart, and safely to maintain and protect our water system and to serve you most efficiently.

