



# THE PIPELINE

Winter 2015  
Issue 78

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

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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

### September

Purchase of new well site at  
4205-4215 108th Street SW  
Board accepts I-5 at Orient project

### October

Board Receives Training per Open Gov't Training Act  
2015 Budget Workshop  
Board adopted updated GFC charge schedule  
per Resolution No. B-1380  
Board adopted updated new water service connection  
charge schedule per Resolution No. B-1410  
Board adopted Resolution No. B-1419—  
Declaration of Surplus Property  
Board approved on-site fitness facility

### November

2015 Draft Budget presented to the Board  
Board approved Customer Assistance Program (CAP)

For more information, please visit our website. \*

Dear Fellow Customers,

Several years ago, we wrote about the “agony of budgeting,” our annual task of developing an operating budget for the upcoming year.

The big issues then, as now, were predicting revenue and controlling costs, resulting in profit necessary to service our bonded indebtedness, make capital improvements, and maintain our reserves at an appropriate level.

Predicting revenue then was difficult since water usage, the primary basis for rate-setting, was driven so much by the weather. Costs we could control but the weather we could not.

During the planning for financing our Meter Replacement Program and our 50-year Replacement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Program, it became clear we had to have more predictability of our revenues. Consequently, the recent change in our approach to billing you kind folks, i.e., first, a fixed fee based upon the size of your meter (small is good) which gives us a level revenue stream unaffected by the weather and, next, a charge for the volume of water used. This change resulted in our recent issuance of bonds financing the Meter Replacement Program at an interest rate very beneficial to the District and provided a solid basis for low rates on our future issuances.

That done, now we had to deal with financing our operations, including regular capital improvements, such as pumping and treatment projects, equipment re-placements, upsized yachts for the commissioners (just kidding), and rebuilding our reserves which had diminished over the past few years.

On the revenue side, we still generate income from the sale of our excess water to the Spanaway, Rainier View, and Summit areas. We continue to realize rental income from various companies mounting their antennae on our water towers. Our staff provides us with detailed forecasts of our costs. Controlling these costs is driven by our desire to maintain the high quality of our employees and a high level of service to you, our customers, while keeping our rates as low as possible.

After projecting revenues and costs for the year 2015, reviewing and analyzing all of this at our Budget Workshop and subsequent Commissioners meetings, we came to the inescapable conclusion that an increase in rates is necessary. It will apply to both the fixed fee and the volume charge for water usage commencing January 1, 2015. (If it's any solace, you won't be billed until March for the first two months of the year.)

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Warm Wishes for a Safe, Prosperous  
2015 from the Staff of  
Lakewood Water District



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*This year, we took one further step in our planning, namely, forecasting our revenue needs to fund the 50-year R&R Program and our operations for the next five years. While this was by no means an exact science, the data we had from past years and the projection for the year 2015 gave us something to work with. It appears likely we may experience rate increases annually during that time. Not a sure thing, since these decisions will be made annually; however, we thought you should be alerted to the possibility.*

*As we have stated before, all of us involved in the operation of the District will continue to make responsible decisions regarding revenues and expenditures. Despite the increases, we still have the lowest rates in the area, are proud of it, and continue to have a goal of staying that way.*

*May 2015 be happy and safe for all of you,  
Your Board of Commissioners*



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

We often associate the New Year with an opportunity to start fresh and a chance to meet new and exciting goals. Here at Lakewood Water District, we have long had the goal of providing our customers with some relief during troubling times, and with the start of the New Year, our vision has come into fruition.

Our staff has been working very hard at launching the Customer Assistance Program (CAP) in order to better serve our community and in reinforcing our mission to provide customers with water service that meets or exceeds all water quality standards, maintaining policies and practices that benefit the health and welfare of the community. Our program affords our customers the opportunity to donate funds beyond their water bill to help those who may be in need of assistance in paying their water bill. This has all become possible because of the partnership we have entered into with the 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).



## Do your part, be water smart. WATER FACTS

- ◆ 1 cubic foot (CF) of water = 7.48 gallons
- ◆ In an average single family residence nationally, each person uses 75-80 gallons of water per day.
- ◆ A leak in a pipe this big ● could mean a loss of 360 gallons of water per day.
- ◆ In the hot summer months, to keep a lawn green, you need to apply only one inch of water a week.

### TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

1. Which uses the most amount of water? a. shower; b. dishwasher; c. toilet
2. What room in the house uses the most water? a. kitchen; b. laundry room; c. bathroom
3. How much water is used when flushing a conventional toilet? a. 1 to 2 gallons; b. 3 to 5 gallons; c. 7 to 9 gallons
4. When is it best to water the lawn? a. between 9 p.m. and 10 a.m.; b. between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.; c. between 2 p.m. and 9 p.m.

Answers:  
1.-a; 2.-c; 3.-b; and 4.-a