



THE PIPELINE

Fall 2014
Issue 77

Serving this Community
since 1943.

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

*www.lakewood-water-dist.org

*Click on:

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Matters

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Vice President:

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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

June

Review of 2014 Capital Budget
Potential new well site on 108th Street
Tacoma Metals buys LWD old meters
Tree roots heaving LWD front parking lot

July

108th Street—Counter offer received
LWD reduction in project markup
Board accepts Lakeholme-Woodholme Project

August

LWD property/liability insurance renewal
On-call radius and increased compensation
GM Staff Retention Compensation Allowance
LWD practice re. downsizing of meters

For more information, please visit our website. *

Dear Fellow Customers,

One of our faithful customers and readers was nice enough to write us letting us know that she actually reads our newsletters, enjoys them, and even learns from them. She made a couple suggestions for us to include in our newsletter, one of which was to share some history on the critical nature of clean water to our modern society and maybe some history of ancient civilizations and how they dealt with water.

The head of our Pumping, Water Treatment, and Storage Department wrote the following. And we didn't have to go back to ancient times or leave our own country's history to get the story. We trust you will enjoy this and join us in being grateful for the good water we all enjoy.

We trust you enjoyed your summer,
Your Board of Commissioners

So Thankful for that Chlorine

Who said that? Who's thankful for chlorine in their drinking water? Well, after you read this, you might be.

The Ebola epidemic that is now gripping Sub-Saharan Africa is undoubtedly a major cause for concern and apprehension. The death of 1700 innocents is not trivial. However, let us put that into some perspective. Let us also be aware of the estimated 1.8 million people worldwide, mostly children, that die from water-borne diseases every year. Let us be mindful of the one billion people worldwide that still in this century do not have direct access to clean, potable water.

Do you realize that in the 1850s through 1890s, cholera and typhoid fever were two of the leading causes of death in urban America? In 1862, even President Lincoln's son Willie was not safe from contaminated water when he died from typhoid fever while living in the White House. During the American Civil War, more men succumbed to disease than were killed in combat.

But, all that changed in the early 1900s with the addition of a simple chlorine compound in the public water supply. Today, due to continued investments in infrastructure, treatment technologies, regulations, and regulatory agencies, disease outbreaks such as cholera, typhoid fever, dysentery, Giardiasis, and E. coli from public water systems have been all but eradicated in the United States. We in this country today (and especially in our Lakewood Water District) are most blessed and should be thankful.

Now there are a myriad of treatment technologies including gas chlorine, sodium hypochlorite, Ozone, and Ultra Violet that are successfully used to protect the public from many potentially nasty little creatures that can inhabit water. On a personal note, the District uses what is



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considered in the industry to be the optimal amount of chlorine to treat its water supply; just enough to safely disinfect the water and have a small “reserve” for “unexpected guests.” State regulations call that “reserve” a chlorine “residual” (a reserve supply) at a minimum of 0.2 parts per million. The District keeps its residual at 0.6-0.8 to meet the state standards and ensure you have the safest, cleanest water possible.

So remember, when you buy that \$3.00 bottle of water (that costs the bottling company \$0.03 to fill) because you don't like “that chlorine” in your tap water; it's there for you, for your health, and peace of mind. And that tap water is tested and regulated by state and federal standards and is guaranteed safe, clean, and potable for you and yours.

Your Lakewood Water District, formed Tuesday, June 1, 1943 at 8 o'clock p.m., started with:

- ▶ 40.8 miles of water main,
- ▶ 3 tanks, and
- ▶ 3 wells, acquired from the Federal Water Agency;
- ▶ 369 connections,
- ▶ A population of approximately 7,900
- ▶ 600,000 gallons of storage,
- ▶ 3 elected Commissioners, and
- ▶ An average bi-monthly bill of \$2.58



Superintendent's Corner:

AMI Meter Replacement Program Progress Report

The District's AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) Meter Replacement Program has been underway since early August and is going well. District installer Apex CoVantage began August 4 to replace every meter in the District, sizes ranging from 5/8-inch to 12-inch. The replacement meters are Sensus meters, with the 5/8-inch and 1-inch meters being iPerls (magnetic, digital meters) and the larger sizes being compound or turbine meters.

In mid-September the Logic System, the “brains” of the operation, was installed and is now fully operational, allowing us to read meters and gather data electronically from the meters. Hence, the AMI portion of the system is now fully functional for the meters installed to date. The Customer Service Portal, however, will not be operational and available until all meters have been successfully replaced. This portal, which you, our customers, may choose to use to access and monitor your account, is expected to be accessible after the first of the year. Look for further details from us on this matter on our website in early 2015 and also in our winter edition of *The Pipeline* coming your way in January-February. At that time, it will become available to sign up to have access to the Customer Service Portal, first come, first served.

We have been succeeding in meeting the goals of leak detection and accurate meter-reading. Our installers and staff have found a number of leaks at the meter and have worked with our customers in these situations to get the leak fixed, whether it be on the customer side or the District side. Also, the meters appear to be successfully registering accurately, capturing low flows that once may have gone undetected.

Our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org continues to provide information on this program, including a Meter Replacement Installation Schedule and a Google map, so you can track where the meter replacement is occurring in the District. You are also welcome to call us with any questions you may have at 253/588-4423.

We continue to mail out postcards to all those whose meter will be replaced in a week or two, and we also provide a courtesy automated phone call to those customers for whom we have a good working telephone number, to alert them a few days prior to their meter replacement. If you have recently changed your phone number, or otherwise are not positive we have a good working number for you, **please call, fax, or email to us your phone number**, so we can keep you informed!! Our phone number is 253/588-4423; our fax number is 253/588-7150; and our email address is csweb@lakewood-water-dist.org.

If there is more we can do to help you during this very important project, please let us know.

