

Winter 2014
Issue 74

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"Serving this Community
Since 1943"



Our warm wishes for a healthy
and happy 2014
from the staff of
Lakewood Water District

Published by
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www.lakewood-water-dist.org

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



THE PIPELINE

Dear Customers,

We understand that you may never have a second thought about whether or not you will have safe, clean, high-quality water each and every time you turn on your faucet, not thinking about how we get it up out of the aquifers deep in the ground, putting it through a most rigorous regiment of sampling and testing, treating the water where needed, pumping it through our 256 miles of water main, getting plentiful supplies to all the water tanks and reservoirs for good storage and high-demand and emergency supply, and ultimately, delivering it safely and quietly to your water meter. We understand you don't have a second thought about all that...and you shouldn't...and that's just the way we like it.

We're glad you have such confidence in your water and your water district to not have to worry about your water supply or the safe, dependable delivery of it. We, on the other hand, have to be very concerned (and we are) about every single detail along every single step of the way, from the pumping of it out of those aquifers all the way to its safe delivery to your home. While we do encourage you to know as much about your water and water system as you can, we are happy that you can sit back and relax as we "drive the water delivery bus" for you.

You may be tired of hearing from us by now about our upcoming 50-year R&R Program. On top of all the letters and cards and notices we've sent your way, we hope you've been able to go to our website to follow along with our progress... just click on the program logo and enjoy the ride.

We especially invite you to go to the Bill Calculator, so you can see what your bill will look like starting in March/April compared to what it looks like now. Your bill will have a new look, with a clear breakdown of where your hard-earned money is going, to continue to ensure that safe, quiet delivery of your water to your meter every moment of every day. And yes, we will all see an increase in our bills to help pay for this 50-year R&R Program and other important projects this year, but we'll still have the lowest water prices around. We're also going to be borrowing a good sum of money to help fund these programs and projects so that customers in the future will also help pay for the improvements they will enjoy.

At the time of this writing, we've just put the finishing touches on our 2014 Budget. You may have seen our notices in the TNT last month and this month. We have a really big year ahead of us, with lots of good things coming your way to help ensure your water system remains safe, to improve the accuracy of your water meters, and to escalate your customer service to levels way more efficient and thorough than it already is, including 24-7 access to your account and many services.

Again, we encourage you to go to our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org for lots of good information, but if at any time you have a question you are not finding an answer to, please call our very competent staff at 253/588-4423. They are ready, able, and happy to help you. Or, you are most welcome to come to our monthly Commissioner meetings, where we Commissioners will be happy to answer your questions as well.

And last, but certainly not least, we give thanks for you, our customers, and wish you a very happy, prosperous, and safe New Year.

Most sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners



Cross Connection Control

It is of the upmost importance to Lakewood Water District to provide you and your families with safe, clean, potable water. To help us in this endeavor, there are state laws as well as a District resolution (No. B-1287) we must follow.

Whenever there is the potential for safe, potable water to be mixed with a non-potable substance, cross connection/backflow protection must be provided. In accordance with the Washington Administrative code (WAC 246-290-490) and our District resolution, the Lakewood Water District has an active Cross Connection Control Program.

A cross connection may occur in one of three ways—backflow, back-siphonage, or backpressure. Backflow is a flow in reverse from the normal direction of flow in a pipe system. Back-siphonage is caused by negative pressure in the supply pipe. Backpressure may occur when a potable supply pipe is connected to a system or

fixture which exceeds the operating pressure of the supply pipe.

All that to say, whenever a customer has a landscape irrigation system or uses our water in manufacturing, food services, or fire suppression systems, a potential exists that some non-potable water could re-enter the water system through what is called “backflow.” We prevent this by requiring the customer to place a backflow prevention assembly in strategic areas of their water system.

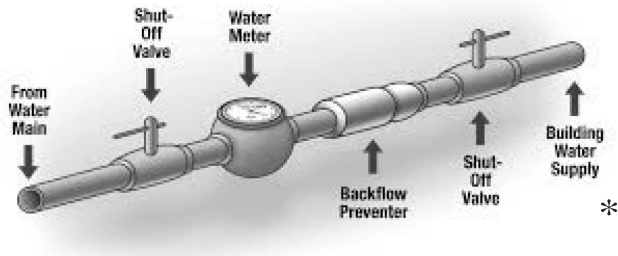
These backflow assemblies are required to be tested annually to ensure they continue to operate properly to protect the potable water system from possible contamination. Failure to maintain

proper testing may result in water disconnection per District resolution, as we cannot afford to compromise your water supply.

Our ongoing monitoring is in place to ensure Lakewood Water District customers have the cleanest, freshest, purest water possible. By educating you, our customers, about our precious water resource, we can maintain our safe, clean water supply for the present as well as our future.

For your convenience, we have brochures available on this subject as well as lists of certified testers in the area. If you have questions about our water quality standards, please contact Dwayne Farmer, our Water Quality Specialist at (253)588-4423.

* Graphic From DeMar Plumbing NYC



Spotlight on our Staff: Sam Bosma



Sam came to us last February as a “master” equipment operator and seasoned veteran in the areas of heavy construction (18 years) and water, sewer, and storm pipe installation (15 years). Sam spent eight years, from 1982-90, serving his country in the Air Force where he worked as a heavy equipment operator and in pavement maintenance.

Sam is a vital member of the District’s Service Crew in the Construction and Maintenance Operations Department. As such, Sam plays an important role in helping to maintain the District’s water system, including repairing main breaks, maintaining meters, and answering service calls for our customers.

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Sam said he enjoys learning about our water system and how it all works together to operate as “one organism.” Having put a good deal of water pipe in the ground during his career, he thought the pipe work at the District would be very similar...but it’s proven to be very different...there’s lots to do after the installation of that pipe.

When not at work, Sam enjoys metal art...when he’s not busy remodeling his home.

Born and raised in Carnation, Washington, Sam moved to the Tumwater area after his time in the Air Force, where he was stationed in Upper Michigan, Colorado Springs, and McCord Air Force Base. Sam and Sue, the love of his life, enjoy Sue’s son Andy and grandson Tyler, and Sam’s granddaughter Mary Lee who he helped raise. And then there’s Bandit, their Australian shepherd/blue heeler, who is their faithful family pet.

We are thankful to have Sam on our LWD team. If you are in need of a service call, or if you need your meter turned off or on, or if a main just broke in your area and we have to temporarily turn off the water, you may be greeted by Sam’s smiling face at your door. 😊

