



THE PIPELINE

Fall 2013
Issue 73

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"Serving this Community
Since 1943"

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



Dear Customers,

The last several messages from your Board of Commissioners have been somewhat serious, devoid of much in the way of humor. After all, it's tough to write anything uplifting about deteriorating water mains and services, millions of dollars of expected capital expenditures, and probable rate increases. Let's lighten up a bit while the sun is shining and before we have to start collecting and spending for the needed repairs and replacements.

At a ceremony held August 23, the District honored now-retired William W. ("Bill") Philip for his over 44 years of service as a Commissioner, by dedicating to him our largest water tank (located on Hemlock Street above Fort Steilacoom Park) and affixing his name to it with an appropriate plaque. Most of our staff and his family attended, taking the opportunity to speak of his contributions of time and talent.

Now, at first blush, this would not appear to be a particularly happy occasion, losing a valuable member of our District family; however, it "ain't" all bad news.

You have to understand that for years, we have been forced to listen to Bill's ranting and raving about the glories of the University of Washington (Husky) athletic teams and his questioning the ability of any other institution to compete with them. We even had to stifle his suggestion (granted, tongue-in-cheek) to paint the tank purple with two large gold "Ws" emblazoned on either side. With his departure, we can offer uninterrupted, equal time to other members of our Board and staff to extol the virtues of the Washington State Cougars, the Stanford Cardinal, and the Pacific Lutheran Lutes. That is good news. Seriously, we all will miss the banter between the "Dawg" and his college foes.

With the dry summer we have all enjoyed, one would think our water usage would have increased markedly. While we have experienced some increase, it has not been extensive. It appears our customers are being conservative, given the state of the economy. Another possible reason may be found in a couple quotes of W. C. Fields, that famous consumer of, let us say, "spirited beverages."

"I never drink water; that is the stuff that rusts pipes."
and

"I never drink water; I'm afraid it will become habit-forming."

Have a good day.
Your Board of Commissioners



Our largest tank: the 8-million-gallon William W. Philip Tank.



The unveiling of the dedication bronze plate.



Mr. Philip with his wife, daughter, and granddaughters.



Mr. Philip with the LWD Commissioners and Staff.



50-year R&R Program Update

Since our last edition of *The Pipeline*, the District has been actively involved in an extensive public notification and education program to “get the news out” to our customers about the upcoming 50-year R&R Program. We met individually with all our largest-meter customers and invited our multi-family units with five or more meters to a public forum just for them. We met with the Lakewood City Council and community service organizations such as Lakewood United, the Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, and both Rotary Clubs in Lakewood. A News Release was run in *The Suburban Times* and the *Lakewood-JBLM Patch* and offered to *The News Tribune*. Most recently, we hosted an Open House on September 10 to present the 50-year R&R Program

to our residential customers. Postcards were mailed to each customer inviting them to attend.

“Next step” details of this upcoming program will be discussed at length with the Board of Commissioners during our budget process, beginning with a Budget Workshop occurring in early October. Stay tuned to our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org (just click on the logo), like us on FaceBook, and follow us on Twitter for up-to-the-minute updates and reports. As always, if you have any questions at any time, you are always welcome to call us at 253/588-4423.

NEW!

To estimate your bill, use the new **Bill Calculator** on our website. Just enter your meter size and estimated consumption and it will calculate your new bill. (You can find your meter size and actual consumption on your bill enclosed here.)

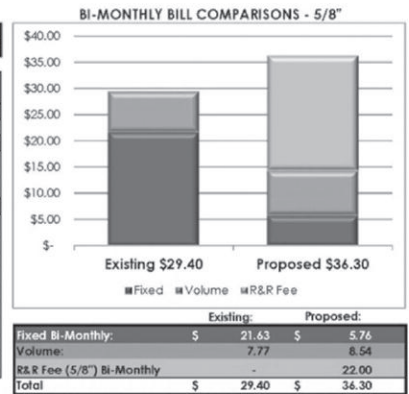
Lakewood Water District Renewal and Replacement Program 2014 Bill Calculator Residential Service Example



INPUT YOUR INFORMATION (IN YELLOW):

Select Meter Size	5/8"	
Enter Bi-Monthly Use (cf)	1,500	

Charge	2013 Existing	2014 Proposed
Fixed (Bi-Monthly)		
Bi-Monthly	\$ 21.63	\$ 5.76
Volume		
Block 1 (0-8ccf)	\$ -	\$ -
Block 2 (8.01-20ccf)	1.11	1.22
Block 3 (20.1+ccf)	1.51	1.66
Replacement Fee (Bi-Monthly)		
5/8"	n/a	\$ 22.00
1"	n/a	24.20
1.5"	n/a	30.80
2"	n/a	39.60
3"	n/a	63.80
4"	n/a	242.00
6"	n/a	308.00
8"	n/a	638.00
10"	n/a	836.00
12"	n/a	990.00



Spotlight on our Staff: Michael Wall



Michael came to us November 26, 2012, as a seasoned Meter Reader, previously working for Lakeview Light and Power as a Meter Reader for 13 years. Between his time at Lakeview Light and Power and coming here, Michael taught grade school for 12 years (so he can do anything 😊). Michael’s present duties include the routed reading of all meters in the District’s system, replacing broken or missing meter box parts, and reporting any leaks and non-functioning meters (that he can’t fix).

When asked what he enjoys most about his job, Michael said, “I love being outdoors all day. Inclement weather does not bother me much, and I like being in more-or-less continuous motion during my work shift.” When not at work, Michael is an avid backpacker, making 43 trips to the mountains last year! He also enjoys writing music, playing guitar,

and reading. Michael and Jan, his wife of 32 years, have two children, Daniel and Amity, along with Buster the Dachshund and Allie the cat.

Born and raised in Leavenworth (years before the Bavarian Village theme was even dreamed of), Michael attended Central Washington State College and the University of Washington.

We are thankful to have Michael on our team. If you see him out reading your meter or pass him on Mt. Rainier, be sure to say “Hi.”

