



THE PIPELINE

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Issue 71

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"Serving this Community
Since 1943"

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



Dear Fellow Customers of Lakewood Water District,

We wanted to take another opportunity to share with you that in "The News Tribune," the final 2013 Budget for the District was presented to your Board of Commissioners for review and approval on December 20, 2012. After a very challenging budget process, the Board decided it could no longer underfund several maintenance programs that have been deferred in past budgets and agreed to a needed rate increase effective January 1, 2013. For a good number of our residential customers, this will mean another \$1.08 per month. We have budgeted the necessary Capital and Replacement & Rehabilitation projects in 2013 that will help maintain our good maintenance and operation standards, so we can continue to have a reliable system by which to deliver your good, clean, safe water.

The first bills to reflect the rate increase were received after March 1, 2013, to give you and all our customers a 60-day notice. A typical two-month billing for our residential customers in 2012 was \$27.24 for 1500 cubic feet of water consumed. That bill will now reflect an increase of approximately \$2.16 and become \$29.40 every two months, for an increase of \$1.08 per month. A comparison of the 2012 rate structure with the new rates is in the chart at the bottom of this page.

The 2013 Budget includes staffing to perform system maintenance that has been deferred in past years but is needed to maintain the system reliability our customers have come to expect.

Please note you can find additional budget information on our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org.

Annually, by law, the Lakewood Water District is subjected to an extensive audit by the Washington State Auditor's Office. While they review all aspects of our operation, each year they pay particular attention to different elements of it, for example, the handling of cash: the proper investment of our funds; the application of appropriate accounting principles in the preparation and maintenance of our financial reports; and that meetings of the Commissioners are conducted and reported pursuant to applicable statutes.

We are delighted to report that for the year 2011, for which the most recent audit was completed, we received a totally "clean" report. In fact, it was the 17th year in a row that the District had zero findings. We also received many compliments from the auditing team on how the business of the District is conducted, the cooperation of our staff in the performance of the audit, and our willingness to seek advice from the Auditor's Office during the year as questions arise. Compliments to General Manager Randy Black and Finance Director David Logan along with all of our employees who participated in this year's audit.

Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners

Lakewood Water District Rates

| Water Consumption | 2012 Rates | Increase | New Rates |
|--------------------------|--------------------|----------|---------------------|
| 0-800 cubic feet | \$20.03 (min.rate) | \$1.60 | \$21.63 (min. rate) |
| 801-2000 cubic feet | \$1.03/ccf | \$0.08 | \$1.11/ccf |
| 2001 cubic feet and over | \$1.40/ccf | \$0.11 | \$1.51/ccf |



LWD Welcomes New Staff Members:

Ian Black

We welcomed our new Superintendent Ian Black to our team in late October 2012. Ian oversees the day-to-day operations of the District working in conjunction with two Department Heads and the finance, accounting, and customer service staff to assure District functions are progressing smoothly as we continue to provide reliable, economical, safe, and great-tasting water to our customers.

In construction for 22 years, Ian has managed large divisions of heavy civil and vertical construction companies, including owning and operating his own Civil Contracting business. Working with a variety of contractors from small regional operators to the largest contractor on earth, Ian has expertise in heavy grading, paving, drilling and blasting; as well as the installation of water, sewer, storm, and gas lines, and conduit for dry utilities.

When asked what he liked most about working at LWD, Ian replied, "I would honestly have to say the people I work with here at the District. I enjoy coming to work and interacting with and working with all of the great folks here at the District. I enjoy the dedication and commitment that all of the people here exude."

When Ian's not at work, he enjoys spending time with his "two tiny men," sons Noah (10) and Jonah (7); riding his motorcycle; working around the house; hunting and fishing in the fall; and a camping trip thrown in here and there for good measure.

Ian was born and raised in Haines, Alaska (about 936 miles north of Seattle) where he grew up working in the family petroleum business. After graduating high school, he went to Oklahoma and attended East Central University where he played baseball and graduated with degrees in Mathematics and Business Administration. After graduation from college, he returned to work in Alaska until he moved to Puyallup, Washington in June of 2006, where he resides still.

SEASONAL FLUSHING COMING YOUR WAY:

Lakewood Water District staff will once again be performing the annual flushing of our water mains starting March 18 through May 10. We perform high-velocity flushing of our system, pulling water from a storage tank or reservoir, then proceeding from hydrant to hydrant, turning them on full speed out of the front pumper port. This action causes a scouring of the inside of the water mains.

Flushing occurs between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Blue-and-white street notification signs will be placed in your neighborhood 48 hours in advance to let you know when the District's flushing crew will be coming to your area. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter or our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org to see when we will be coming to your neighborhood. If you have any questions, please call 588-4423. **Thank you for your cooperation.**



Bob Brooks

Bob joined our team in late August, 2012 as a Meter Reader; however, his aptitude, thirst for learning, and a vacancy in the staff in early November, afforded him the opportunity to move to the Service Crew as a Water Utility Worker I. His work includes repairing water mains, meters, and services and repairing and replacing fire hydrants. It also includes locating and assisting with Pumping Crew operations and site maintenance. Bob looks forward to working on the Flushing Crew this spring.



Bob previously worked for the City of Kent Water Department, performing flushing and repairing and replacing fire hydrants. Prior to that, he worked for Pierce County at the Chambers Creek Waste Water Treatment Plant, performing building maintenance and sewer line repairs, cleaning, and maintenance.

When asked what he enjoys most about his job here at LWD, he says he enjoys working with a great, knowledgeable group of people to provide potable water to the Lakewood area. Bob is very interested in how our water system works and has aspirations to work in the Pumping Department one day.

When not at work, Bob enjoys spending time with his family, working around the house, walking, boating, and bicycling. He also enjoys cooking and eating good food, reading books, and watching movies (especially sci-fi).

Bob and his wife, Katherine have three sons, Andrew (21), Justin (21), and Josh (18); a lab, Chloe; and two cats, Patches and Missy. Bob has lived in the South Sound area most of his life, being born in Bremerton, growing up in Mulkilteo, and going to Gig Harbor High School.