



Summer 2013
Issue 72

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"Serving this Community
Since 1943"

Our Water.
Our Community.
Our Future.

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

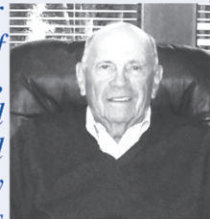


THE PIPELINE

Dear Fellow Customers,

At the writing of this letter, we have just gotten this year's Water Quality & Annual Business Report (Annual Report) in the mail to you. We hope you will read it and enjoy it.

There were a couple important topics in our letter to you that I want to reiterate here, and to expound upon one a little further. As we reported in our Annual Report, our beloved Mr. Bill Philip retired as Vice President of the Lakewood Water District Board of Commissioners last November, resigning his post as Commissioner after over 44 years of faithful and dedicated service. Mr. Philip's sharp business sense, financial savvy, and expertise have helped guide and direct the District through these many years. His integrity and genuine care and concern for the District, its customers, and staff have engendered great respect and admiration, and we shall all surely miss him. Please join us in wishing him all good things in his retirement.



Now, please join us in welcoming Mr. Greg Rediske, the gentleman who offered to step into some very large shoes and complete Mr. Philip's final term of office; he is running for his first full term as your Commissioner this fall. Mr. Rediske is a long-term resident and respected businessman in the Lakewood area, very active and well regarded in our community and committed to the District and you, its customers.



Now to the matter we want to expound upon...our CAG.

In our recent Annual Report, we introduced our upcoming 50-year R&R Program and our CAG—our Citizen's Advisory Group—and we briefly outlined their efforts and contributions to date. We'd like to take a little time here to tell you more about the purpose of the CAG and the process leading up to its inception and beyond.

In early 2012, our staff began working diligently with some of our top-notch engineering consultants and our financial consultants, endeavoring to figure out the best way to get our need met with the least amount of impact on our customers and at the highest level of benefit to our community. Various plans and options were presented to the Board over two meetings in August and October 2012, with the Board adopting the basic program structure at a third meeting in early November. One of the things we stressed to our staff at that time was the need for simple, effective communication and education for our customers.

So, with basic plan in hand, our staff set out to hew out the best customer communication and education plan possible. But before they could do that, we knew we needed some input from "you" on our plan, so we asked eight of "you" to represent all of "you." Hence, the inception and formation of our CAG...our Citizen's Advisory Group.

(Continued on p.2)



*Our CAG Members
From left to right, Tommy
& Fae Crabill, Susan
Hart, Paul Webb, Claudia
Thomas, Dan Durr,
Paul Wagemann. Not
shown: Jeff Brown.*

Board of Commissioners Letter *(Continued from p.1)*

We had three meetings and kept them to two hours each. After introductions at the first meeting, we presented an overview of the District's history, and a PowerPoint presentation entitled, "Water Works 101," so as to provide a foundational working knowledge of the District's water system. We then explained the current state of the existing system (hence, showing our need) and an outline of our plan. In the second meeting, we shared with the CAG the Board's plan of action process and got into the "meat" and details of the plan, including pricing and funding.

The members of the CAG were all "quick studies" and became pert near experts on our water district in short order. The CAG offered its strong support of the District and its plan to keep our water system strong and viable for the continued safe, reliable delivery of our good water... not only for us today but for our children's children and beyond.

The District would like to extend its deepest gratitude to the CAG for their time, effort, and dedication to join us in investing in our water... our community... our future. We appreciate the care, expertise, wisdom, and thought each one brought to this very important table. Think about it... as natural resources go, what is more important than water??

In the third and final meeting, we hewed out what we believe are the most essential questions to be answered for you, our customers.

Those questions include:

- What's the need?
- What's the solution?
- How much will it cost me?
- How long will it take?
- When will it start?
- What's in it for me?
- What do neighboring communities pay for water?

We also, collectively, answered those questions at that third meeting, and as we speak, are devising a clear, simple but effective multi-media public education and communication plan to share those answers—and more—with you. Stay tuned to our website for updates at www.lakewood-water-dist.org... we'll be in touch!

Sincerely, Your Board of Commissioners

Our Water.
Our Community.
Our Future.

Lakewood Water-wise customers are winners!



Lakewood Water Staff play "Drinking Water Jeopardy."

Drinking Water Week 2013

The Lakewood Water District joined the American Water Works Association and water professionals across the nation to celebrate Drinking Water Week in early May. For more than 30 years, this week has been a time to acknowledge the preciousness of safe drinking water, while celebrating its valuable presence in our community.

Observing the AWWA theme, "What do you know about H2O?" this week was as much about enhancing awareness as it was about celebration. The District used festive education to illuminate the vital role potable water plays in all of our lives. This included a "Question of the Day" and prizes for our customers, as well as cross-training and team-building activities for staff. The week culminated with a fun valuation and display of our employees' water knowledge, revealing just how much there is to know about H2O...and an overall sense of purpose in the community.

