



THE PIPELINE

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

WINTER 2013 • ISSUE 70

Dear Lakewood Water District Customers,

The following narrative was written by our own Dave Hall, a member of our staff for over 24 years and the Department Head of our Pumping and Water Treatment Department. We are grateful and proud to have it represent our sentiment to you at this holiday season. Your Board of Commissioners

Failure is the state or condition of not meeting a desirable or intended objective. In its nearly 70 years of existence, Lakewood Water District has never had the word failure in its lexicon...nor will it ever. The reason for this is twofold: a dedicated staff that fully understands the nature and gravity of the profession which they have chosen; and an extensive network of statutory regulations aimed at guaranteeing the health and welfare of the community.

Imagine if you will, you are not fortunate to live in a community such as Lakewood, but a community that does not guarantee the health and welfare of its citizens. Imagine you live in a small, rural community that does not have direct access to clean, safe drinking water. Imagine living in a community where young girls cannot go to school because all the women in the family, including girls as young as five, must spend up to four hours each day walking as far as three miles round trip, carrying just enough water to meet the very basic cooking and sanitary needs of the family. Imagine knowing the water you are carrying may make your children sick or worse. Seems far-fetched? Not for over one billion people on this planet.

What has that got to do with me and my water bill? In essence, everything! Even though the politicians and government regulators pass the legislation mandating special purpose districts such as Lakewood Water District must adhere to proper operation and maintenance programs, it is the customer who ultimately decides the District's ability to provide a guaranteed level of service by agreeing to a rate structure prioritizing the health and welfare of the community. What is having as much safe clean water as you want, whenever you want it, at the simple twist of a faucet handle worth to you? What is it worth knowing the water you are drinking has been thoroughly tested and treated; knowing that your family is safe from cholera, typhus, E. coli, or any number of waterborne diseases? What is the value of having an infrastructure (that we all take for granted) that provides such ease and convenience in our lives, that supports our homes, our jobs, our businesses, our schools and our recreation; that essentially provides a way of life?

Lakewood Water District has always and will always strive to provide the best for the least. We take pride in the quality of the product we produce and deliver for the lowest rates in the county. We constantly strive to generate and maintain the best business plan possible assuring the ultimate "bang for your buck." Undoubtedly, maintaining the District's "Failure is not an option" philosophy will be more expensive in the future. Infrastructure costs are rising in every sector of the economy. New technologies provide greater capability, sustainability, and reliability; but new technologies can be expensive. Mankind has existed for thousands of generations without an iPad or a Smartphone, but just try asking people to give up these devices now. Just like communication, technology has become an essential part of peoples' daily lives; abundant, safe, clean drinking water is essential to the social and economic life of the community. Therefore, the question is really quite simple but oh so crucial: what is the health and welfare of you and your family really worth?

Well, to us here at Lakewood Water District, it's worth everything. Hence, we continue to be committed to our Mission Statement which declares, Lakewood Water District will provide its customers with water service that meets or exceeds all water quality standards, maintaining policies and practices that benefit the health and welfare of the community.

Have a wonderful holiday season and entry into a new year...and don't forget to enjoy your safe, clean, very affordable water.

*Warmest regards from your
Board of Commissioners and District Staff*

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

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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





Our Own LWD Wonder Woman

Wonder Woman has nothing on our Ronda Farmer, who single-handedly takes on many challenging endeavors with ease, including award-winning service to the Pacific Northwest Section (PNWS) of the American Water Works Association (AWWA). Ronda has been very active in the PNWS for a number of years—from serving as a Section Conference monitor, moderator, and speaker to coordinating the entire conference registration the first year it implemented electronic scanners for recording attendee CEUs (continuing education units), to chairing the very demanding IT Committee—but most recently she was recognized and awarded for her work in our local subsection, the South Sound Subsection.

Following in the footsteps of our General Manager who led the charge in resurrecting the subsection from years of inactivity, Ronda has been involved in one way or ten others with every subsection function, training, and activity. From designing and building the subsection’s website and getting it onto the PNWS website, to being involved with the development of the subsection’s “Water Drop Award,” logo, and shirts, to building data bases upon data bases, to handling all aspects of every registration of every subsection training since the subsection’s revitalization, to welcoming the Board to each monthly meeting and assisting the Board in various endeavors, Ronda has made herself an invaluable part of the South Sound Subsection.

So it was no surprise to any of us when the PNWS Subsection Advisory Council awarded Ronda with the Subsection Activities Award for her outstanding service to the PNWS by way of the South Sound Subsection. Her award was the highlight of the award ceremony closing the 2012 PNWS Conference for all of us who attended from LWD, and we wanted to share the wealth with you. Congratulations, Ronda; we’re proud of you! Keep up the good work...and give our regards to Wonder Woman.

SEASONAL FLUSHING COMING YOUR WAY:

Lakewood Water District staff will once again be performing the annual flushing of our water mains from the first week of April through the first week of July. 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.

Direct Phone Number to Pay Your Bill
(253) 292-4377



Did You Get the Call??

From time to time, our staff or IVR (Interactive Voice Response) system may need to get important information to you in a hurry. To do that, we need to have a good, working phone number for you on file. ***Please help us by making sure we have your phone number!*** You can do this in a number of ways...

- call us at 588-4423;
- email us at csweb@lakewood-water-dist.org;
- send us a message via our Website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org under “Contact Us”;
- write your number on your next bill stub w/your payment; or, best of all,
- come in and see us!

Thank you so much for helping us get better at helping you!



*Warm Wishes for a Prosperous 2013 from the Staff of
Lakewood Water District.*

