



Fall 2012
Issue 69

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY
SINCE 1943"

Visit our "Wealthy" Website:
www.lakewood-water-dist.org

Please visit our Website for:

- Our Mission Statement
- Project information
- Forms for various services
- Rate information
- Payment options
- Recent publications
- and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ)

Surf's up...see you on the Web!

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Lakewood Water District
11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW
P.O. Box 99729
Lakewood, WA 98496-0729

Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm
Phone: (253) 588-4423

www.lakewood-water-dist.org

BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

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The Board of Commissioners
meets the 3rd Thursday of each
month at the District
office - 3:30 pm.
Public Welcome



The Pipeline

Dear Lakewood Water District Customers,

We'd like to start this letter by thanking you for all your kind comments regarding the humor we endeavor to include in our quarterly letters to you, our faithful, fellow rate-payers and customers. While we do believe the proverb, "a merry heart doeth good like a medicine," there are, however, some challenges before us that are no laughing matter.

As we shared with you in this year's Water Quality & Annual Business Report, a large portion of our infrastructure (water mains with all the associated parts and pieces) will need to be replaced in the next 40 or 50 years. Since that time, we have confirmed that as many as 175 miles of asbestos cement (AC) main are involved. As you can imagine, that's a lot of R&R (Rehabilitation & Replacement) work in front of us, which does not include our ongoing capital projects and annual operational and maintenance projects. And it all costs money.

We have been working feverishly with our staff and financial consultants to analyze the need and devise the best possible plan to do what is necessary to keep the District's system strong and viable to enable us to continue to deliver to you good, safe, reliable drinking water at the most "doable" price. A very important part of our plan is educating and informing you as we move along. That is why we took advantage of the opportunity to utilize the platforms of our annual report and now this newsletter to begin doing just that...keeping you informed of what we're faced with and how we plan to handle the challenge. Remember, you are always welcome to attend and give your input at our monthly Board of Commissioner meetings.

And it's budget time...yippee. Another opportunity to see how much blood we can get out of the proverbial "turnip." At the time of this writing, we have already begun to roll up our sleeves and go to work, turning over every stone looking for places where we can further cut expenses and spend even more wisely than before. On the revenue side of things, we are encouraged in that we think we actually had what is said to be "summer"...and we rejoiced at every sighting of a sprinkler system or an irrigation system showering a thirsty lawn with that wonderful life-giving ale we call "water."

On the "miracle" side of things, in the midst of all the "Obama Care" healthcare reform afoot and on the horizon, our renewal premiums for our employee healthcare insurance actually came in at an ever so slight decrease. So no matter the challenges of the day, there's always something to be thankful for...and so, we'd like to close this letter the same we opened it...by thanking you, our faithful customers, for your continued support of your (our) Lakewood Water District.

We'll be in touch,

Your Board of Commissioners

LWD Bids A Fond Farewell to Superintendent Roger Nottage

Kind, gracious, fair, good-natured, loyal, hard-working, dedicated, honest, faithful...are just a few of the adjectives that describe Roger Nottage, our Superintendent of the past five years. On August 31, 2012, after 22 years of service to the water industry in and around Pierce County, family, friends, and colleagues from around the state gathered at the District to bid him a fond farewell and happy early retirement.



(Continued on back.)

Roger Nottage Retires *(Continued from page 1.)*

Roger was typically the first one to arrive at the office early in the morning to make the coffee...and the last one out the door in the evening once he finished the coffee...and completed as much work as he could cram in one day. No matter the work load, Roger always took time for people, no matter who they were, and was always ready and willing to help or assist them in any way he could.

Called by some the "Spreadsheet King," Roger was committed to thoroughly and accurately recording information so as to be ever ready to give an account and a good report where needed, whether it was to keep up with the budget, report the progress of a District project, or determine if a staff member had one more day of vacation.

Roger was always most concerned with—and determined to do—what was best for the District, its customers, and staff; and for that we thank him. While we do miss him, we trust you'll join us in wishing Roger a happy, healthy, and most enjoyable retirement.

District Projects

VETERANS DRIVE

Veterans Drive Phase 1 water main replacement project, from Interlaaken Drive SW to Lakeholme Avenue was completed last year. This year, Phase 2 extended the project from Lakeholme to Alameda Avenues. This year's project includes 1720-feet of 12-inch ductile waterline, 3 fire hydrants, and 35 service reconnections to the new main.

The contractor for the District was Iversen & Sons, Inc. from Rochester, Washington. The contractor had the lowest bid of \$176,916.21 and came in on-time and within budget. The District supplied the pipe and fittings for Iversen to install. The Engineer's Estimate for the project was \$213,000. LWD was pleased with Iversen's final product.



SPRINGBROOK

A new 16-inch ductile iron water main will replace the existing 8-inch water main this fall along McChord Drive between I-5 and Bridgeport Way, and in Bridgeport Way between McChord Drive and San Francisco Avenue SW. Pape & Sons Construction, Inc. of Gig Harbor submitted the low bid of \$510,296.30 to install the pipe and fittings supplied by LWD. The Engineer's Estimate for the project was \$520,000. This project started in September and should be completed by the end of the year.

PINE STREET, WALNUT STREET, LANGLOW AVENUE, and LAKELAND AVENUE SW

The District is proposing to upgrade four water mains under the Replacement & Rehabilitation (R&R) Program in the area served by the new 12-inch water line in Veterans Drive installed last year. The water lines in these four streets will be replaced and looped together to promote better water quality and fire flow to the area. The design is being completed this year by RH2 Engineers for an anticipated construction schedule in the spring of 2013.

WINTER IS COMING...PREPARE NOW!

Now is a good time to check your home and prepare for the winter weather around the corner. A few steps today can eliminate trouble later. Here are a few ideas:

- Check your backflow system for leaks.
- Turn off all your outside spigots and empty the hoses—or a better idea, disconnect hoses altogether. For extremely cold weather, wrapping or covering spigots is prudent.
- Be sure you know where your shut-off valve is located.
- Exposed vulnerable pipe should be repaired with insulation sleeves or wrapping available at most hardware stores.
- In sub-freezing temperatures, letting faucets drip slightly could prevent damage. Just opening a faucet to a slow drip can relieve excessive pressure that builds between the faucet and any ice blockage that may form.
- If you will be out of the area for a prolonged period of time, you may choose to contact the District Office to have your water shut off until you return.

For further information on winterizing your home or irrigation system, please feel free to contact our office for further information at 588-4423 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

WINTERIZING YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM

Here is how to winterize double check valve assemblies:

- Turn off main irrigation shutoff valve.
- Drain excess water out of the double check—open the four test cocks one at a time until water stops flowing.
- Close the test cocks. This will prevent any dirt or microorganisms from getting into your system.
- Put the two ball valves on the assembly at a half-on, half-off position.
- Wrapping the assembly with newspaper or insulation is a good idea.