



# The Pipeline

Summer 2012  
Issue 68

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:  
William W. Philip

Secretary:  
John S. Korsmo, Jr.

General Manager:  
Randall M. Black

The Board of Commissioners  
meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each  
month at the District office –  
3:30 pm. Public Welcome!



## Dear Lakewood Water District Customers,

*On the heels of just recently pouring our hearts and souls into our Annual Report, we thought you might enjoy knowing—or being reminded of—what makes your Special Purpose District “special.”*

*Water districts are just one of a number of special purpose districts formed under specific statutory authority. Others include ports, public utility (PUDs), school, library, fire, irrigation, lake management, and public facilities districts, to name a few. Among these, water districts are even more “special.” Why?*

*As a special purpose water district, we do not levy taxes on our constituents. Most other special districts rely on property taxes to fund their activities. Water districts must live solely on revenue realized from the sale of water at rates established by them, and they are the only government entities in Washington that do just that. We are able to deliver high-quality, reasonably-priced water services to our owner/customers while maintaining a well-trained staff and efficient facilities...all on our rates alone.*

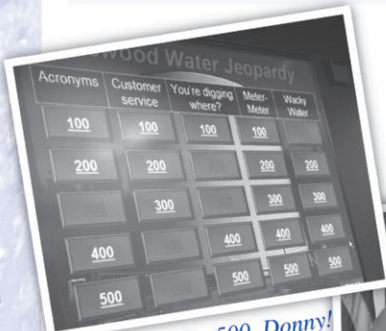
*Special purpose water districts do have the authority to collect on Utility Local Improvement Districts (ULIDs), and a new district may charge a fee for the building of its initial infrastructure, but assessments for ULIDs and infrastructure are different from taxes.*

*These are levied for a specific purpose and for a limited time. Once the project has been completed, the assessments stop. Our Lakewood Water District, however, does not collect on ULIDs because it has no need to do so; and, we are not a new district, so there are no initial infrastructure costs to be considered.*

*Our Lakewood Water District’s planning coordination with cities and Pierce County ensures adequate water for future economic needs and community planning. In addition, having certified staff and management provides professional operations and maintenance. Promoting water-wise usage is a high priority. The District provides annual funding for system upgrades and maintenance, and this will increase significantly in the days ahead due to an aging system and a rising percentage of unaccounted-for water.*

*Our Lakewood Water District, like all special purpose districts, is governed by an elected board of commissioners. Each commissioner must be a resident and registered voter within the district boundaries. We say “our” Lakewood Water District here, because we three Commissioners are residents, registered voters, and rate-payers of the District along with you. We are proud to support the District and serve you, and we look forward to sharing more with you in the days ahead regarding our Special Purpose District.*

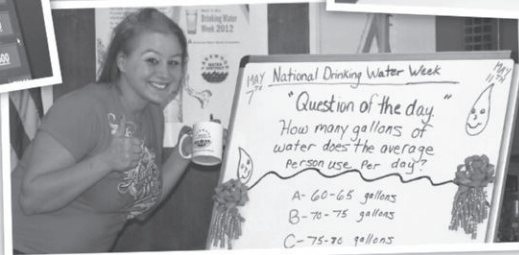
Sincerely,  
Your Board of Commissioners



Wacky Water for 500, Donny!



District Staff Play “Deliver the Water” Race



Customer wins “Question of the Day”

National  
Drinking  
Water Week



## Operation Pinecone

In June, the District took part in Operation Pinecone, a multi-jurisdictional emergency response exercise to test the region's communication and resource management after a natural catastrophe. In conjunction with Operation Pinecone, the District conducted a full-scale exercise of its Emergency Response Plan reacting to simulated damage resulting from a 7.1 magnitude earthquake on the Tacoma fault. The "simulated" damage was based on information provided by the United States Geological Survey analysis of potential damage in the area after an earthquake of this magnitude. The District practiced how to effectively triage its system with multiple road closures; widespread power outages; strategically placed facility failures (including a simulated tank collapse); broken water, gas, and sewer mains; structure fires; collapsed buildings; and mass casualties.

The District exchanged information with the City of Lakewood Emergency Operations Center as well as Pierce County Department of Emergency Management in order to develop the best possible response strategy maximizing the benefit to the community. The District is committed to being as prepared as possible to cope with any catastrophic event. Are *you* ready?

## Spotlight



**Seth Skipworth**, hired April 18, 2011, serves as a Water Utility Worker I on the Service Crew after initially working as a meter reader. Seth was instrumental in this year's flushing program and even led the charge during the final week of flushing. Seth grew up in the water industry as the son of the Director of Vera Power and Water in Spokane, Washington, who retired after 30+ years. Seth got to "get his own feet wet" by working for City of Spokane Water Department over four straight summers a number of years ago. Being able to answer our customers' questions and help them when they come up to you in the field is Seth's favorite aspect of his job. As much as Seth enjoys working for Lakewood Water District, he also enjoys hiking, camping, and anything sports-related when not at work.



Seth married his wife, Heather, over 13 years ago, and together they have three beautiful daughters, Kyra(10); Taylor(8), and Alyssa(7). Pomeranian Riley, Black Lab Lexie, and Jack Russell Abby, along with Copper the cat, are also valued members of the family!

Seth graduated from Central Valley High School in Spokane, Washington and went on to obtain his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Eastern Washington University where he was also on the football team.

Seth has proven himself to be a real asset to LWD, and we're happy to have him on our team!



**Shaun Jorgensen**, also came to us April 18, 2011 and works as a Water Utility Worker II on the Construction and Maintenance Crews. On the Construction Crew, Shaun works with new construction and repairs; on the Maintenance Crew, he deals with leak detection, valve and hydrant maintenance, and flushing.

Shaun came to us with a good deal of experience, having worked for 10 years as a water utility worker, operator, and/or field supervisor at two different water utilities in Pierce County. Shaun says he most enjoys all the different jobs that go into delivering water to the public and also all the staff he works with and the customers he's met over the years.

When not at work, Shaun enjoys being at home on his Hobby Farm with wife, Charline, and son, Colton(5). They enjoy working on their land, rich with farm animals (including 2 dogs, Tank and Shadow; 2 cats, Murphy and Princess; 2 goats, Casual and Brandy; 1 horse, Kena; plus an abundance of rabbits, chickens, and pigs). Shaun is also in the midst of building a new home for his family during his "spare time"!

Shaun grew up in the Puyallup Valley with his older brother and sister. He graduated from Puyallup High School and worked construction until getting his first water-related job at a local water utility where his brother worked.

Shaun brings much value, skill, and ability to our team, and we're glad to have him here at Lakewood Water District!

## Pick Your Way To Pay

The year is 2001, the first Harry Potter movie has hit theaters, iPods are a new and mysterious contraption, kids everywhere can't stop talking about something called an "Xbox," and the only ways you can pay your water bill are with cash or a check in person, dropping a check in the drop box, or by sending a check through the mail. Can you imagine any other way?

Fast forward to 2012; changes in technology over the past decade or so have occurred at an incredible speed, and we've worked hard to grow accordingly, now offering the following options for paying your bill:

- **In person** Monday-Friday from 8:30am-5:00pm. You can pay using cash, check, or using your VISA/MasterCard debit or credit card.
- **Mail your check** to us, or write your credit card information on the back of your payment coupon, and we'll process it here in the office.
- **Online** at [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org), where we accept VISA or MasterCard, and also payments directly from your checking account.
- **Call our Automated System directly** at 253-292-4377 or call the office and have a customer service representative take your payment over the phone or transfer you to our automated credit card payment system.
- **Set up an automatic withdrawal** from your bank account (we're not sure anything is easier than this option).
- **Schedule payment** through your online banking

We encourage everyone to explore these options to find the one that best suits your needs. As always, if you have questions, give us a call, write us a note, send us an email, or come in for a visit!!

