



Fall 2011
Issue 65

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY
SINCE 1943"

Published by
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

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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,

The Communications Subcommittee of the Public Information Subcommittee of the Health Enhancement Subcommittee of the Bipartisan Public Education Committee of your Nonpartisan Board of Commissioners (in a poorly disguised marketing effort) herein brings you several of the health benefits of drinking water, not to be confused with the questionable benefits of mixing it with any "taste enhancements." We're talking straight water here.

1. *Lose Weight. Drinking water helps you lose weight, because it reduces hunger. It's an effective appetite suppressant, so you will eat less.*

Comment: We've not heard of a no-cal Corona or Budweiser.

2. *Natural Remedy for Headaches. Drinking water helps to relieve headache and back pain due to dehydration.*

Comment: Possibly also due to excessive intake of "taste enhancements."

3. *Look Younger with Healthier Skin. You will look younger when your skin is properly hydrated.*

Comment: Ponce de Leon had this goal in seeking the fountain of youth. Hopefully, we'll be more successful in our efforts.

4. *Better Productivity at Work. Your brain is mostly made up of water; thus drinking water helps you think better, be more alert, and concentrate.*

Comment: A bucket of cold water poured over one's head comes close to accomplishing the same thing.

5. *Helps Digestion and Constipation. Drinking water raises your metabolism because it aids digestion. Fiber and water go hand in hand to enhance your daily "regularity."*

Comment: No comment.

6. *Fewer Muscle Cramps and Sprains. Proper hydration helps keep your joints and muscles lubricated, so you will be less likely to get cramps and sprains.*

Comment: Reversing the aging process may also help; however, we haven't yet figured out how to do that. Some other subcommittee will study that issue.

7. *Good Mood. When your body feels good, you have better odds of being happy.*

Comment: Now we're back to the straight water vs. water with "taste enhancements" argument.

We must close with a disclaimer. You have only three (3) Commissioners available to serve on these committees. Our collective wisdom regarding health issues is limited. Consequently, despite the above-professed benefits, we ask you not to drink water to excess, do not drink while texting, and do not drive after drinking water excessively without foreseeing reasonable access to a restroom.

Hope you had a wonderful summer... and keep drinking the water.

Sincerely,

Your Lakewood Water Commissioners

VETERANS DRIVE MAIN REPLACEMENT

The next project in the District's Rehabilitation and Replacement (R&R) Program is on Veterans Drive SW between Interlaaken Drive and Lakeholme Road. The 1800 linear feet of 12-inch ductile iron pipe will replace the existing 8-inch AC pipe installed in the 1950s. Design of this project was awarded to CHS Engineers out of Bellevue and will be going out for bid September 26, with construction scheduled for this coming winter. The alignment of the new main will be along the south shoulder of Veterans Drive paralleling the existing pipe.

NEW BOOSTER PUMP STATION



Under construction in mid-May.

The pump station is one of the wholesale water assets, built under the District's contract and supervision and operated by the District. The cost of this project, just like that of the Wholesale Water Transmission Main, will be included in the charges to our wholesale customers. This pump station will serve our wholesale water to Summit Water and Supply Company, Rainier View Water, and others in the future. As with every successful project, it is always satisfying to have a project reach final completion, especially a project that is as extensive and potentially beneficial as this one.

Completed Booster Station.



LWD Website Gets a Facelift www.lakewood-water-dist.org

Look for the launch of our improved website coming in the next few weeks. This new site will include many new features including links to our Facebook page, Twitter feeds, and our blog. The site will also have user-friendly drop-down menus and links to outside agencies. As always, we will still have links to our bill payment website, forms, and current District happenings. This site will feature more images of our staff and the jobs they do to keep your water safe and clean. Again, please look for the site launch in the coming weeks and let us know what you think. See you on the web. Happy surfing.

New Service Fees in Place September 1



As we shared with you in our Summer edition of "The Pipeline," the Board of Commissioners at their June 30 Special Meeting adopted a resolution approving the discontinuation of two service fees, implementation of a new fee, and the increase of another fee (that hadn't been changed since 1958!)

The discontinued fees were stopped July 1, and in keeping with a long-time District practice of giving customers 60 days' notice before imposing any new fee or increasing another, the effective date for the new fee and fee increase was September 1. As we reported in the last edition, the new fee is for after-hours turn-on of accounts that have been disconnected due to non-payment. This fee is \$50 and will be charged directly to the customer's account. The increased fee will be for after-hours water turn-on/off per customer request, going from \$5 to \$20. If water is turned off/on during the business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., there will be no fee. These fee changes have been made to help recover the District's costs of sending its on-call staff out to perform non-emergency services after hours.

As always, we encourage our customers to locate their shutoff valve or to have a shut-off valve installed in your home if you do not already have one. Since 1973, the building code has required all homes to have an emergency shutoff valve. This shutoff valve should be within five feet of the foundation of your home where the main water line connects into the house.

The shutoff valve at the meter box (not in your house) is to be used only by Lakewood Water District staff for maintenance and repairs of the meter. This valve is part of the water system and should not be used by home owners as the main shut-off valve to your home. It is important for this valve at your water meter to stay in proper working order, and valves can be damaged if not shut off properly. If you need your water turned off for any reason, just contact the District office at 588-4423. This service is available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day and is complimentary during the business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. and always in the case of an emergency.

The District's office hours are M-F 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you have any questions, please feel free to call our office at (253) 588-4423, and a customer service representative will be glad to help you. You can also go to our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org for additional tips and tidbits on these matters and more.