



Spring 2011
Issue 63

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 3rd Thursday of each
month at the District
office – 3:30 pm.
Public Welcome.



The Pipeline

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

As this is written, it is cold, and we are being pelted with snow, hail, sleet, and rain. I'm sure you, shivering and wet, have long since realized January and February have combined to be amongst the coldest and wettest months on record. Cold and rain are not in the best interests of your friendly Water District, since our beloved customers aren't watering lawns and gardens.

Water usage is driven in large part by the weather, which seemingly is dictated by TV meteorologists, who are influenced by ratings, which are determined by viewership, which results from viewers deciding to stay indoors to watch TV, which decisions are driven in large part by the weather, which seemingly... (back to the top ☺). We may have to come up with some way to influence the likes of Jeff Renner and the late, great Harry Wappler.

You are likely tired of hearing it, but our budgeting (including rate-setting), if it is to be successful, depends on a good educated guess as to revenue as well as controlling costs and capital expenditures. We do pretty well in the things we control—like keeping expenses down, delaying vehicle replacements and some projects where we can, and keeping a lean 'n mean staff (one-third smaller than most districts our size)—but estimating revenue is tough. We review historical figures, try to be conservative, and hope we're in the ball park. However, like our hitless Mariners, it is possible for us to swing and miss. It's early in the year, so we're not overly concerned as yet, although our revenues are slightly below budget for the year. Hopefully this will soon change as the sun begins to shine, grass, weeds, and other stuff will begin sprouting, Ichiro will be hitting, and all will be well with our water-world.

What this means to the District and, ultimately, to you, our rate-payers, is that you finally will be using our water for purposes in addition to drinking, washing, and flushing. And we thank you in advance. Thankfully, we have an abundant supply and the best rates around, so you can have plenty of "green" in your yard and in your pocket book!

Enjoy the spring!

Your Board of Commissioners

New Rates on Bills March 1

Bills issued after March 1, 2011 will reflect the 12 percent increase as approved in the 2011 Budget and reported by the Board of Commissioners in their letter to all customers in early January. For your convenience, the new rates are listed below.

Two-month Billings—

Minimum rate of 800 cubic feet:

2010 rate = \$16.55

2011 rate = \$18.55

Over 800 cubic feet to 2000 cubic feet:

2010 rate = \$.85/100 cubic feet

2011 rate - \$.95/100 cubic feet

Over 2000 cubic feet:

2010 rate = \$1.15/100 cubic feet

2011 rate = \$1.30/100 cubic feet

DISTRICT Q&A

Welcome to another edition of our District's Q&A (Question and Answer) Section. We appreciate the questions you pass our way and thought we might share the answer to a frequently asked question here.

Q. How do I turn off my water?

A. Many homeowners have their own shut-off valve to their house, possibly close to the house where the main water supply feeds into the home. It can also be in the garage, buried near your hose faucet, or even in a closet in the house. This is the safest means to turn off your own water in case of emergency or for repair. To protect our customers from the potential of repair costs for accidentally breaking the meter valve, if you do not have your own shut-off valve, the Lakewood Water District requests that you PLEASE DO NOT TURN OFF YOUR WATER AT THE METER. The meter is the property of the District, and we are responsible for the repair and maintenance of that meter.

Our technicians are available 24/7 and within immediate (in the case of emergency where there is running water) to one hour's response time to turn your water off for you. If you have a scheduled repair with a plumber, simply contact our office as soon as you schedule your repair and set up an appointment time with our friendly customer service staff. Our technicians are happy to come out and turn off your water for you. The fee is currently only \$2 Monday through Friday 8am- 4pm and \$5 at any other time and includes returning to turn it back on for you. These fees have been in place for over 40 years and are in the process of being reviewed by our Board of Commissioners. These present fees are significantly lower than the cost of the service, so they may be increasing slightly in the days ahead.

SEASONAL FLUSHING UNDERWAY

Lakewood Water District staff will begin the annual flushing of our water mains beginning the second week of April and will proceed through the end of May. Flushing at this time of year provides warmer temperatures to prevent frozen roadways when water is flushed out onto the streets, and it allows for the flushing to be completed before the summer months of peak pumping demands.

Natural mineral deposits of iron and manganese build up around the inside of the four-inch and larger water mains. There are no health risks associated with these deposits. 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.

If you experience **dark or cloudy water**, we suggest that you do not drink the water until it is clear again. You may want to store extra drinking water before this time period, and we recommend you refrain from doing laundry during this time. You may want to use the water only for toilet flushing, lawn watering, etc. If the water remains dark and cloudy, **running your outside faucet for 5 to 10 minutes** should clear up this problem.

WHOLESALE TRANSMISSION MAIN and BOOSTER PUMP STATION



Construction of the Wholesale Transmission Main was completed in October 2010 by DPK, Inc. from Kent, Washington. The 24,173-foot 20-inch water main runs from the intersection of South Tacoma Way at 112th Street to its terminus just west of the railroad crossing at 121st Street East in Parkland. This pipeline will serve Summit Water and Supply Co., and will soon serve Rainier View Water Company and Spanaway Water Company.

Starting March 21, 2011, WC&T from Olympia, Washington will construct a booster pump station that has the ability to push 7.4 million gallons of water per day from Lakewood to our wholesale customers. The pump station is scheduled to be completed by October 2011, with final connections to our wholesale customers through the winter of 2011 and ready for the 2012 warmer season.

Flushing occurs between the hours of 8am and 4pm. 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. If you have any questions, day or night, please call 588-4423. **Thank you for your cooperation.**

