



Fall, 2010  
Issue 61

Keeping Lakewood Water District  
Customers Informed

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY  
SINCE 1943"

Published by  
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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

## A Note From Your Commissioners...

*A young computer hotshot and a senior citizen are seated next to each other on a long flight. The young man is bored and, thinking that seniors are so dumb he could put one over on him easily, asks his seatmate if he would like to play a fun game. The senior is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The young man persists, saying that the game is a lot of fun. "I ask you a question and, if you don't know the answer, you pay me \$5. Then you ask me one and, if I don't know the answer, I will pay you \$500!"*

*This catches the senior's attention and, to keep the young man quiet, he agrees to play the game.*

*The young man asks the first question. "What's the distance from the earth to the moon?" The senior doesn't say a word, but reaches into his pocket, pulls out a five dollar bill, and hands it to him.*

*Now it's the senior's turn. He asks the young man "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The computer hotshot uses his laptop and searches all references he can find on the net. He sends e-mails to all the smart friends he knows; all to no avail. After an hour of searching, he finally gives up. He wakes the senior and hands him \$500. The senior pockets the \$500 and goes right back to sleep.*

*The young man is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the senior up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill on three legs and comes down with four?"*

*The senior reaches into his pocket, hands him \$5, and goes back to sleep.*

*What does this have to do with your Lakewood Water District? Absolutely nothing (unless you want to draw a comparison of the senior to your commissioners and staff as far as being financially savvy, not afraid to take on a challenge, and wise enough to redeem the time by sleeping on a plane so you're ready for that which awaits you on the ground)! Regardless, once in awhile, a story comes across the internet which tickles us, and we just wanted to share it. Besides, between this and the last Pipeline which came out shortly after the District's Annual Report, we've pretty much given you all of our recent news, statistics, and activities.*

*In late August we began the budgeting process for calendar year 2011. As part of that exercise, our staff has formed a working committee comprised of field and office personnel and management, whose task is to review every aspect of our operation for possible improvements and cost savings. Be assured the District staff has been closely scrutinizing our operation and maintenance activities to ensure the highest levels of service you have come to expect from us. System components have reached their life expectancy and need to be replaced, along with worn out equipment and infrastructure used in our water treatment and delivery of our water.*

*We are extremely mindful of our customers' desire to maintain our low rates and are doing our level best to minimize what will be a necessary rate increase for the coming year.*

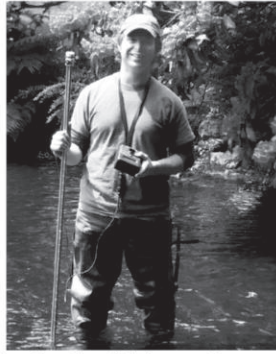
*What does go up a hill with three legs and comes down with four? A politician? Hope you had a good summer...enjoy the fall.*

*Your Board of Commissioners*



## WATER QUALITY TESTING— YOUR DISTRICT GETS ALL “A’s”!

With the constant deluge of news articles regarding water contamination, the District receives numerous calls from concerned customers regarding the safety of the water they drink. We would like to reassure you, the District makes every effort possible to ensure the highest water quality possible. Listed below are examples of just some of the efforts made by Lakewood Water District and a few key things you should know about the quality of your water.



*Monitoring local lakes and streams*

• Lakewood Water District **MEETS OR EXCEEDS ALL WATER QUALITY STANDARDS.**

• **District water is under MCL (Maximum Contaminant Level) for all compounds except for Iron and Manganese.**

• Wells with Iron and Manganese Levels that exceed MCL have filtration removal plants.

• The Annual Budget for Testing and Sampling is between \$35,000 and \$60,000.

Our testing program:

• The District performs a **MINIMUM** of 840 coliform bacteria tests per year (70 per month) and has not had a positive test result in over ten years.



*Taking monthly  
bacteriological samples*

• The District tests for VOCs (Volatile Organic Chemicals) every three years. Each of the 30 active well sources is sampled. Each sample tests for 62 individual chemicals.

• The District tests for IOCs (Inorganic Chemicals) every three years. Again, every well source is sampled. Each sample tests for 27 individual compounds.

• The District tests for SOC (Synthetic Organic Chemicals) every three years. Every well source is

sampled. Each sample tests for 65 individual compounds.

• Disinfectant By-Products and Nitrates are tested annually.

• Radionuclides, Gross Alphas, and Radium tests are taken from each well source every three years.

• Because of the amount of AC (asbestos concrete) water main in the system, asbestos samples are taken from the distribution system every three to four years.

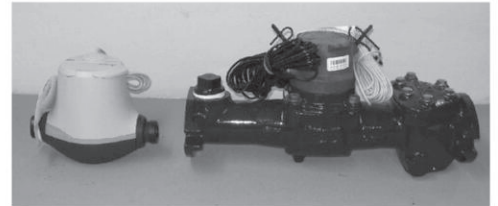
• Thirty-one Lead and Copper samples are taken from homes built between 1979 and 1986 every three years, and the results are shared with the home owners.

• Distribution System Chlorine residual tests are taken on a daily basis.

So, every day your District staff is testing and monitoring your water to make sure it is of the greatest quality possible. If you have any questions, feel free to call our Pumping & Water Quality/Water Treatment Department at 253/588-4423.

## NEW WATER METERS

Water meter technology has advanced from the experimental to reality for the next generation of water meters. The District has adopted new meters that are more accurate with fewer moving parts (less to wear out and replace).



*3/4" iPerl and 2" OMNI C2 meters*

Other advantages include their ability to detect very low flows, reverse flow, continuous flow (leaks), no water conditions, and tampering of the meter. They contain no lead and are nationally accepted. These advancements fit well within the state reporting requirements of the Water Efficiency Rule enforced by the Washington Department of Health.

Standard residential meters are being marketed for the same price as the older style meters. Larger meters are more expensive to the District; therefore, the cost of a new connection with a larger sized meter has increased. The new meters will be used for all new connections and replacements of retiring or failed meters. There are no charges for retiring or failed meters unless the meter was damaged.

It is our intent to notify our customers when an older style meter is to be replaced with the new meter, because the detection of the low flows may result in an increase in the bill. These more efficient meters will help the District better steward its water supply to ensure increased abundance into the future.

### GETTING READY FOR FALL & WINTER

Now is the time to get ready for the coming winter months. For tips on how to begin preparing your home and irrigation system for fall and winter weather, please contact your Lakewood Water District at the number just above or via our website at [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org).

We're happy to provide you with our recommended ways to weatherproof your pipes and water system.