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Issue 59

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY
SINCE 1943"

Published by
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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

A Note From Your Commissioners...

"Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink!" Were these words first uttered by W.C. Fields, Dean Martin or some castaway in the middle of a salty ocean? We don't remember, exactly, but they do currently reflect the District's frustration in its inability, so far, to obtain approval from the Washington State Department of Ecology ("Ecology") of its application to change to municipal supply purposes and transfer to the District certain remaining ground water rights contracted to be purchased from Abitibi Consolidated Sales Corporation pursuant to a Water Rights Purchase and Sale Agreement entered into in November 2002. Yes!! 2002!! These water rights were used by their now-abandoned mill in Steilacoom.

Two previous required applications covering a majority of the ground water rights which are the subject of the Agreement were filed by the District in December 2002, and subsequently approved by Ecology (acting at a record pace) in July 2005. However, while then finding that those water rights were valid and approving the Agreement for their purchase, Ecology now has questioned both the validity of the remaining water rights and the contractual right of the District to close their purchase, and has indicated its intention to deny our application notwithstanding its earlier decisions. If their position prevails, the rights will be "relinquished", and the water simply will flow into the bay, unused and unloved.

After much unsuccessful discussion with Ecology, legal counsel has recommended, and the District and Abitibi have agreed, to file a legal action in Pierce County Superior Court seeking among other things, a declaratory judgment that the remaining water rights are valid, that the District's contractual claim to them is proper, and the rights are not subject to relinquishment.

We want the water rights and Abitibi wants the purchase price, both as agreed in 2002. Therefore, we are partners in the litigation.

It's enough to drive one to..... drink?

*Best regards from
Your Board of Commissioners*

Bill Paying Now Even Easier

Lakewood Water District has added an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system as yet another payment option. Our customers now have the ability to pay over the phone with their Visa, MasterCard or debit card, with these logos on them. This system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This option only takes less than two minutes to get through and has voice prompts that guide you through the entire process. In order to use this system you will need your full account number, which includes 5 digits preceded by a dash then another set of numbers that will be 5-6 digits long. When you call our office during regular business hours a customer service team member will transfer you to the payment system. If you call after hours simply press the option associated with making a payment.



Seasonal Flushing Underway

Lakewood Water District staff will begin its annual flushing of our water mains the first week of April and will proceed through the first



week of May. Flushing at this time of year prevents frozen roadways when water is flushed out onto the streets, and allows 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 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. *Running your outside faucet* for 5 to 10 minutes should clear up this problem.

Flushing occurs between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. 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, or need assistance after hours, please call 588-4423. *Thank you for your cooperation.*

Keep Your Vehicles Safe: Tips from Our Lakewood Police



Lakewood Water District in conjunction with the Lakewood Police Department is publishing this article to help provide vital information to our customers regarding the growing concern over vehicle break-ins.

The Lakewood Police Department is concerned about **VEHICLE BREAK-INS. Leave nothing in your car!**

The Lakewood Police Department does not want you to be the next victim of a vehicle prowl; just parking in your driveway and locking your vehicle doors is not enough to protect you. Vehicle break-ins only take a few seconds – whether the car is left unlocked or when thieves smash windows or punch door locks to grab items they have seen inside.

Protect yourself – don't be a victim. Do a check of your own car. Are any of these items visible?

- cellular phone, laptop, GPS unit
- purse and/or wallet, sporting equipment, gym bags
- shopping bags, clothes, or other merchandise
- electronic equipment, iPods
- music CDs, tools, spare change
- checkbooks, mail, or other papers for identity theft

Help reduce auto thefts and break-ins by:

- completely close all windows and lock all doors
- install a locking fuel cap and steering wheel locking mechanism
- install a vehicle tracking system
- install an alarm system
- never leave your vehicle running unattended
- park in well-lit locations
- leave nothing in your car – if you must leave anything in your car, conceal those items from view at a different location before arriving at your destination.

For additional information, contact the Lakewood Police Department Community Oriented Policing Unit at 253-830-5000.

Tillicum Work Continues

The City of Lakewood is installing sanitary sewers in some of the areas of Tillicum and American Lake Gardens. In cooperation with the City, Lakewood Water District elected to upgrade the old water lines in the same streets the sewers are being installed. Upon completion of the sewer and water, the City is installing storm sewers and building new streets with curbs and sidewalks.

The City of Lakewood and Lakewood Water District entered into a joint agreement to contract the work to Northwest Cascade of Puyallup, WA and contract management services to Exceltech of Lacey, WA. This agreement saved the District considerable money by reducing restoration costs.

Lakewood Water District will have installed 8418 feet of new ductile iron water main, 68 valves, 9 fire hydrants and 124 relocated/reconnected water meters. The water improvements are nearly completed and the City's sanitary sewer, storm sewer and street work will continue for some time.

