



Fall, 2009  
Issue 57

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...

*Have you ever heard of “writer’s block”? That’s when a self-professed author sits down to produce some profound prose, stares at a blank piece of paper (or now, a computer monitor) which expects to be filled with brilliance, and simply cannot come up with any words.*

*We’re afraid your faithful scribes are suffering somewhat from a first cousin of writer’s block, our inability to come up with new ways to report on the activities of the District, the reading of which would keep you awake at night avidly devouring this message.*

*In the past few months you have received our quarterly missive, “The Pipeline,” and our annual Water Quality and Business Report, both of which described in some detail our ongoing capital projects. So, given our failings as original wordsmiths, we won’t try to repeat those descriptions in a new or exciting way, but will simply update you on their progress.*

*Both the replacement of our ancient water mains in Tillicum and the creation of a new “455 Pressure Zone” to increase water pressure in the Sylvan Park area are progressing satisfactorily. The installation of large protective casings to accommodate our water mains where they cross beneath the tracks of Sound Transit is nearly complete. Lastly, we broke ground on the construction of the new wholesale transmission water line to send our excess water east to the Summit and Rainier View areas as well as to other possible wholesale customers.*

*As unfortunate as is the current economic downturn, the District actually has received a significant benefit. Preparatory to the capital projects described above (with the exception of the Sound Transit issue over which we had no control, nor forewarning), the District had built its reserves and issued bonds to pay for them. With construction activity down, we have received bids and have awarded contracts for those projects in amounts much below our engineers’ estimates. Until recently we had been earning interest on our funds at good rates. Those rates have now declined. But with the commencement of our capital projects, we are spending those now lower interest-earning funds and taking advantage of the lower construction costs. Timing is everything.*

*Best regards from*

*Your Board of Commissioners*

## Visit our “Wealthy” Website: [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org)

Please visit our Website for a “wealth” of information on your Lakewood Water District, from our Mission Statement, project information and updates, forms for various services, rate information, payment options, recent publications, and the answers to frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the District. We’d love to hear from you how we’re doing in serving your needs on our website. Please share with us your feedback, positive or negative...just click on “Contact us” and then click on “[email us.](#)” Surf’s up...see you on the Web!



## BEFORE THE COLD WINDS BLOW...

### Winterize Now

Despite a generally temperate climate here in the Northwest, we are not exempt from



sudden and severe cold snaps that can freeze our homes' water pipes. It's always a wise precaution at the start of the fall to ready your pipes for winter weather—that way, you won't find yourself standing in a foot of water due to a broken pipe. You can rest easy knowing you're well prepared if you follow these simple precautions:

- Know where the main water shut-off valve is to your home in case of emergency.

- Disconnect garden hoses from outside faucets. Wrap or cover the faucets, and make sure any irrigation system/in-ground sprinkler is drained and winterized.

- Exposed, vulnerable pipes should be wrapped with insulation sleeves or other wrapping available at most hardware stores. Use the thickest wrap available, and close all gaps that might expose pipes to cold air.

- Seal or caulk holes and cracks in outside walls and foundations near water pipes (also holes for television cable or telephone lines). Sealing these spaces can prevent damage when freezing winds blow.

- In subfreezing temperatures, letting faucets drip slightly could prevent damage. Just opening the faucet to a slow drip can relieve excess pressure that builds between the faucet and any ice blockage that forms.



## District Consultant Spotlight— Craig Gibson



The District is pleased to announce a new member of its team. In March of this year, Craig Gibson, a licensed Professional Engineer, was hired to serve as the District's Consultant Engineer. His duties and responsibilities include reviewing and commenting on District project specifications and drawings and assisting as needed during construction. Craig also develops letters, reports, plans, and projects and handles the ordering of project materials. With the District's extra-large project load this year, Craig has come to our team at the perfect time!

Craig grew up primarily in Colville, Washington. He attended Central Oregon College in Bend, Oregon and graduated with a Civil Engineering Degree from Oregon State University.

Craig has a rich work history, beginning with heavy construction work for a major contractor right out of college and then working 30 years for Tacoma Water, 10 of those years as the Water Supply Manager and another 10 as the Second Supply Project Manager (a \$220 million project). Just before coming to the District, Craig provided engineering services at Lakehaven Utility District in Federal Way and has also performed consultant work for HDR, a local engineering firm.

Craig says his most enjoyable part of his job here at the District is watching a project become real as it advances from the specifications and drawings to construction. Besides his work, Craig enjoys reading, traveling, sports, his kids and grandkids, and his church activities.

Craig and Geri, his wife of 39 years, have two daughters, Danica and Kindra, a son, Garrett, and five grandkids from ages 4 months to 8 years. Not to be excluded are Angel the dog and Dinah the cat!

We welcome Craig to the Lakewood Water District team!

## Winterize Your Irrigation System Now

Now is also the time to winterize your irrigation system. Here are the proper procedures for winterizing your double-check valve assembly. If you are not sure what type of backflow prevention you have, please call our Cross Connection Department at 588-4423, and we will be happy to tell you what type of backflow device you have and how to properly winterize it.



1. Turn off your main irrigation shut-off valve.
2. Drain excess water out of the double-check valve. Open the four test cocks one at a time until water stops flowing.
3. Always close the test cocks to prevent dirt or microorganisms from getting into your system.
4. Turn the two ball valves on the assembly to the half-open/half-off position
5. Wrap your assembly with insulation or newspaper should we experience freezing temperatures.

Enjoy the fall season and, as always, be water wise!