



SPRING, 2009
Issue 55

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

A Note From Your Commissioners...

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

As you know, our Lakewood Water District is a "Special Purpose District." We thought you might enjoy knowing—or being reminded of—what makes your District "special."

Water districts are just one of a number of special purpose districts formed under specific statutory authority. Others include ports, public utility (PUDs), school, library, fire, irrigation, lake management, and public facilities districts, to name a few. Among these, water districts are even more "special." Why?

As a special purpose water district, we do not levy taxes on our constituents. Most other special districts rely on property taxes to fund their activities. Water districts must live solely on revenue realized from the sale of water at rates established by them, and they are the only government entities in Washington that do just that. We are able to deliver high-quality, reasonably-priced water services to our owner/customers while maintaining a well-trained staff and efficient facilities...all on our rates alone.

Special purpose water districts do have the authority to collect on Utility Local Improvement Districts (ULIDs), and a new district may charge a fee for the building of its initial infrastructure, but assessments for ULIDs and infrastructure are different from taxes.

These are levied for a specific purpose and for a limited time. Once the project has been completed, the assessments stop. Our Lakewood Water District, however, does not collect on ULIDs because it has no need to do so; and, we are not a new district, so there are no initial infrastructure costs to be considered.

Our Lakewood Water District's planning coordination with the City of Lakewood, Town of Steilacoom, and Pierce County ensures adequate water for future economic needs and community planning. In addition, having certified staff and management provides professional operations and maintenance. Promoting water wise usage is a high priority. The District annually provides funding for system upgrades and maintenance and ensures low unaccounted for water losses.

Our Lakewood Water District, like all special purpose districts, is governed by an elected board of commissioners. Each commissioner must be a resident and registered voter within the district boundaries. We say "our Lakewood Water District" here, because we three Commissioners are residents, registered voters, and rate-payers of the District along with you. We are proud to support the District and serve you, and we look forward to sharing more with you in the days ahead regarding our special purpose district.

Sincerely,

Your Board of Commissioners

District to Distribute Water Quality and Annual Business Report in June 2009

This year's District Water Quality and Annual Business Report will again be coming your way in late June. The report will provide information for our customers regarding all aspects of water quality, testing, and treatment of our water supply. It

(Continued on back page)

SEASONAL FLUSHING UNDERWAY

As promised in last quarter's newsletter, Lakewood Water District staff has once again begun its annual flushing of our water mains. We began flushing the first week of March and will proceed through the first week of July. 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.



Why do we flush? Natural mineral deposits of iron and manganese build up around the inside of the 4-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.

Flushing occurs between the hours of 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, please call 588-4423. If you need assistance after hours, please call 588-2296. Thank you for your cooperation.

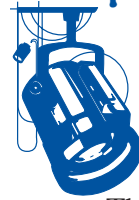
SPRING CLEANING

The cold and windy weather this past winter generated a lot of yard debris. Please be sure to remove any yard debris from around your water meter box. If items are placed on or around your water meter box, our meter reader will not be able to obtain a read for billing purposes. If a read is not obtained, your water bill will be estimated. If this situation continues, this could result in having a much higher water bill once the correct read is obtained.



Also, remember when landscaping, please make sure your water meter is not covered with soil, rock, or beauty bark. If you are not sure where your water meter is located, please call 588-4423 and our customer service representatives will provide you with this information. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Employee Spotlight— Roger Nottage



There's a new sheriff in town; or should we say, Superintendent! In early 2007, the District was left with a vacancy in the Superintendent's position for the first time in 30 years. After a very detailed and thorough search and interviewing process, the District hired Roger Nottage as its new Superintendent effective October 15, 2007. As the District's Superintendent, Roger oversees the construction, operations, and maintenance areas of the District as well as pumping and water quality, source, and storage. The aspects of his job he enjoys the most are working with the District's competent staff and assuring customer satisfaction.

Roger brings to the District 30+ years of experience in the water industry, including 11 years as the Public Works Director for two Washington cities and 16 years as the General Manager of a Puyallup-area water purveyor. Roger's credentials include a degree in Civil Engineering Technology, a number of valuable certifications, strong management skills, and accreditation as an instructor in the Washington Environmental Training & Resource Center.

Roger was born and raised in Spokane, Washington. He and his wife, Kathleen, have two sons, Michael 31 and Patrick 28. When not working diligently at the District office or out in the field with the staff, Roger enjoys recreational golf, travel in foreign countries,

(Continued from front page) **Annual Report to be Mailed**

will also include an overview from the Board of Commissioners; information on current resources, supply, and facilities; financial statements; and an update on the District's current capital and renovation and replacement projects. For more information, call Christie Butler at the District office at 588-4423.