

SUMMER, 2009

Issue 56

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY
SINCE 1943"

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Vice President:

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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...

Each quarter our staff insists we produce some newsworthy words of wisdom to enlighten our faithful readers of "The Pipeline." The letter for this issue, however, is always the most difficult to write, because we have just finished pouring our hearts and souls into our annual Water Quality and Business Report which was mailed to you on or before June 30. We hold nothing back from you in those reports, so there is little left to say the next day. We would like to encourage you to read that report...it really does contain a lot of good information about your water, your water district, your water district staff, and all that is being done for you, our water district customers.

At our fun-filled monthly meetings, we continue to perform such required tasks as reviewing financial reports, approving and authorizing payment of bills, and listening (intently, raptly) to reports from our Superintendent and General Manager. Periodically, our lawyers and financial consultants appear to explain what they have done for us lately on pending matters requiring their services and fees. To a casual observer this may not be terribly exciting stuff; however, it is our reason for existing.

Occasionally, we really turn up the heat and buy things such as generators, fuel storage tanks, and this year, a replacement for our dying photocopier, and a new phone system. We try to keep these weighty decisions to a minimum in order to avoid undue stress on your Commissioners. Especially during these economic times, our scrutiny is more acute than ever. Our staff beats every bush and turns over every stone to make sure we are getting the best product or service for the best price available. We really do realize we are spending your money, and we really do watch every penny and spend it with the utmost care.

We are excited about getting our new phone system, because it will help us help you better. We've had our present system for over 15 years, so it's quite antiquated and limited. Don't worry...we'll still be answering the phone (not Automated Andy), but our new phone system will enable us to get to your call more quickly, transfer you more seamlessly, and offer you expanded services.

We will also have a feature that will help us get important notifications to you automatically. For instance, if we needed to get a message to all our customers, it would take days and thousands of dollars just to get a letter to you. It would take way longer and way more money for our small staff to call each of you...with approximately 16,700 connections and six customer service staff, you do the math! Even if all 27 staff were making calls, it would mean over 618 calls apiece! But our new Interactive Voice Response (IVR) component will allow us to get those calls to you in a matter of hours. So...please be sure we have a good phone number for you, so you don't miss out on important news bulletins.

The three of us enjoy our jobs as commissioners and thank you for electing us to these positions, allowing us to make a meaningful contribution to our community. Our regular meetings are held at the District Office at 3:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month and are open to the public. Please feel free to join us and share the excitement.

Have a great summer!

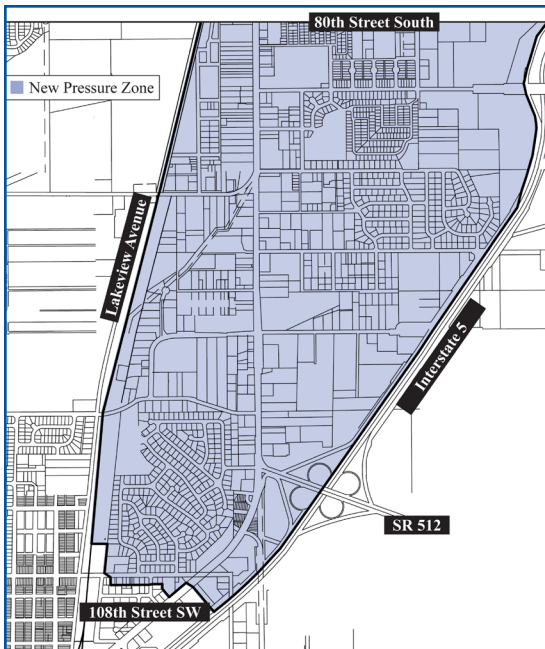
Sincerely, Your Board of Commissioners

AMERICAN LAKE GARDENS-TILlicUM WATER MAIN IMPROVEMENTS

Your District will participate with the City of Lakewood to upgrade portions of American Lake Gardens and Tillicum. The City will be installing a sanitary storm system; the District will install a replacement water system in the area of Portland Avenue and Spruce and Berkley Streets; and the City will then construct new curb/gutter/sidewalks and streets. The water mains in the Tillicum area are some of the oldest mains in our system. We will save considerable funds by cooperating with the City's project.

NEW 455 PRESSURE ZONE

The new “455 Pressure Zone” continues to move forward. The building of the pump station was contracted to Stouder General Construction out of Ferndale, Washington to draw water from the water tank behind the fire station on Steilacoom Boulevard and boost the pressure 22 pounds per square inch (psi) into the Sylvan Park area between the railroad tracks and I-5, north of 108th Street. The well site on 88th Street will also be modified to support the new zone. The new pressure will improve the domestic and fire flows in this area that is typically known for its low water pressure. Completion of the new zone is scheduled for late fall 2009. Affected property owners will be notified prior to activation of the pressure increase.



SOUND TRANSIT PROJECT

Sound Transit, successor to the Northern Pacific Railroad, is reconstructing its tracks from “M” Street in Tacoma through Lakewood just south of Bridgeport Way SW. They are relocating the mainline eastward and installing a parallel track to allow for two-way traffic between 66th Street and Bridgeport Way. They are also installing additional tracks between Steilacoom Boulevard and 100th Street to accommodate storage and cleanup of the commuter trains stopping in Lakewood overnight.

Lakewood Water District is required under Sound Transit specifications to protect our waterlines that cross under the tracks from vibration and other damage by placing its mains inside a larger pipe called casings. LWD has secured S&W Utility Contractors of Lakewood to install these large protective casings. Work will take place in June and July of this year.

This extensive and expensive unfunded mandate by Sound Transit has depleted funds scheduled for other projects this year, like the bore under Interstate 5 in the Springbrook area.

LWD SHINES AT REGIONAL AMERICAN WATER WORKS CONFERENCE

A number of District staff participated in the annual Pacific Northwest Section Conference held in Salem, Oregon in early May. Highlights of this year’s conference included Robert Stojakovich taking third place in the Meter Madness contest. Also, Don Stanley, who heads up the Public Information Program for the District, won the Excellence in Communication & Education award. Congratulations Robert and Don!



Don shares his award with us.



Robert demonstrates his winning Meter Madness skills.

WATER-WISE USE TIPS HELP KEEP “GREEN” IN YOUR LAWN AND IN YOUR WALLET



Summer has arrived, and proper lawn care and water-wise usage are important. It *is* possible to keep the “green” in your lawn *and* in your bank account! Over-watering is the most common plant problem. It not only is wasteful but also increases fertilizer needs and the likelihood of lawn and garden insect and disease infestations.

Here are a few tips for a healthier, happier lawn.

- Water before 10:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m.
- Grass is best watered with sprinklers; trees, shrubs, garden flowers, and ground covers should be watered at the base with a garden hose or with drip irrigation.
- 85% of all landscape problems are directly related to over-watering
- Healthy lawns usually need only 1 inch of water per week and a little more during especially dry, hot weather.
- Use the More/Less approach—it is more effective to use more water less often than less water more often. In other words, it is better to saturate your lawn once or twice a week than lightly watering every day or every other day.