



WINTER, 2009
Issue 54

Keeping Lakewood Water District
Customers Informed

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY
SINCE 1943"

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Lakewood Water District
11900 Gravelly Lake Drive SW
P.O. Box 99729
Lakewood, WA 98496-0729

Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm
Phone: (253) 588-4423

Night/Emergency Phone:
(253) 588-2296

www.lakewood-water-dist.org

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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...

For your friendly Lakewood Water District, the year 2008 has been notable due to the unusual number of capital projects on its agenda. Most of them were previously planned, timing known, and appropriately budgeted; however, the acceleration of one planned project and the imposition upon the District of a large unplanned one, both of which involve substantial cash outlays in the immediate future, have resulted in some serious budget considerations for the year 2009 and beyond.

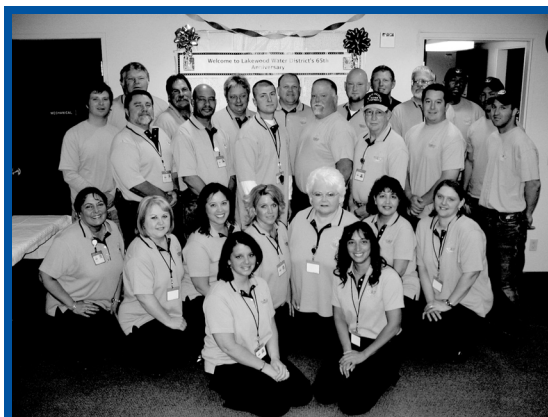
In order to cooperate with the City of Lakewood in providing the infrastructure necessary to the commercial and industrial development of the Springbrook area east of I-5, some time ago the District committed to running a major water main under the freeway. We have been called upon to proceed with this project. The cost of this "bore" (in excess of \$1,000,000) eventually will be recovered from developers in that area through local facilities charges for access to the water. However, while we must incur the cost now, we cannot predict when the recovery will be made. Obviously, it depends on the time and the extent of development.

In the last issue of "The Pipeline," we reported having been burdened with the requirement that we lower the depth of our water lines where they cross below the tracks of Sound Transit in order to protect them from damage caused by vibration resulting from track usage. This project was not planned. In fact, we were not even advised of it until 2008. We had hopes of obtaining some financial assistance from Sound Transit and other governmental agencies. Our requests have fallen on deaf ears. It seems no agency with a direct or indirect interest in the project, including Sound Transit which mandated it, has either the resources or the desire to help. Consequently, the entire cost (approximately \$450,000) must be borne by the District. Expenditures for this project will begin almost immediately.

As planned, we continue to advance the costs of construction of a transmission line to deliver our excess water to the Spanaway, Rainier View, and Summit areas. While we anticipate revenues from these (and possibly other) purchasers eventually will allow us to recover these costs and profit the District in the future, again, we must make the expenditures now.

Unless some action is taken, the cash outlays for these projects when taken together with other necessary capital expenditures and increases in the costs of operation in general

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Warm wishes for a
prosperous 2009 from
the Staff of Lakewood
Water District



(Continued from front page)

will result in a decrease in our reserves to a level below which we feel is prudent. Consequently, folks, (and by now you knew this was coming) we will be looking at a rate increase in the near future. At this writing, we are studying various rate design scenarios, some quite different from the rates presently in effect. Our goal is to come up with a rate structure which is fair to all our customers, whether residential, industrial, or commercial. We have been fortunate in keeping our rates extremely low compared to all other water purveyors in the region. We intend to maintain this difference while continuing to provide the high quality of water and service you have come to expect.

*We Wish You the Happiest of New Years,
Your Commissioners*

New Pressure Zone Coming to Town

The District is moving forward with the development of a new pressure zone in the northeast quadrant of its service area (108th Street SW to 80th Street South and Lakeview Drive to I-5) now that a number of questions regarding wholesale agreements and system modifications have been answered. There are two primary goals for this project; the first is to increase the water pressure an average of 22 psi (pounds per square inch), and the second is to increase available fire flow in the area. A new Booster Station for this pressure zone will be located at the District's existing site at 5000 Steilacoom Boulevard, and the District's 88th and Pine site will be reconfigured with the addition of a new well. We intend to submit for permits and go to bid after the first of the year. It is our intent to have the system modifications completed by late spring or early summer 2009. All affected customers will receive further notification as we near the completion date.

SEASONAL FLUSHING UNDERWAY

Lakewood Water District staff will once again be performing the annual flushing of our water mains from the first week of March 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.

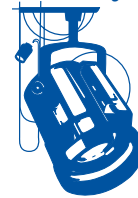
Natural mineral deposits of iron and manganese build up around the inside of the water mains. There are no health risks associated with these deposits. We perform high-velocity flushing of our system, pulling water from a storage tank or reservoir, then proceeding from hydrant to hydrant, turning them 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. If the water remains dark and cloudy,

Employee Spotlight— Carrie Bledsoe



We would like to introduce Carrie Bledsoe who joined our District team in September 2007. Carrie serves as a Customer Service Representative/Accounting Assistant. Her duties include assisting District customers in setting up water service and processing payments. She also assists in our Accounts Payable department and handles the Electronic Funds Payment program. Carrie enjoys all aspects of her job and helping our customers. Carrie was raised in Spokane, Washington and graduated from Shadle Park High School.

When Carrie is away from the office, she enjoys spending time with family and friends. She also stays very busy with four children, Alex, Anthony, and twin girls Victoria and Vanessa, plus Tazz the family cat, aka Baby Boo.

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.

