



SPRING, 2008

Issue 51

**Keeping Lakewood
Water District Customers
Informed**

**“SERVING THIS
COMMUNITY SINCE 1943”**

**Published by
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

**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

An Update From Your Commissioners

What's been happening lately at your friendly water works? We continue to pump water out of the ground, throw a little federally mandated chlorine in it, remove certain “bad” minerals where and when necessary, store it in our water towers, then let gravity cause it to flow down through miles of water mains, both large and small, through your water meters and into your lives. What could be simpler?! Oh, if that were the case.

The pumps burn out or wear out, requiring repairs or replacements. When we hear from you that concentrations of chlorine in an area may be a little out of whack, we send our experts to check things out and respond accordingly. Our water towers need constant maintenance such as interior and exterior painting. (How would you like to paint the inside of one of those monsters?) Recently, we started to install extensive security devices to protect our pumps, towers, and water from graffiti “artists,” vandals, and other undesirables who for some unfathomable reasons seek to do us harm. The water mains and hydrants require regular repair or replacement and, of course, we must monitor our water meters to make sure we are extracting the correct amount of money from all of you consumers.

Many of our activities involve interaction with projects of the City of Lakewood. Presently, we are negotiating an agreement with the City to coordinate their design and construction of sanitary sewers and storm drains in the Tillicum and American Lake Garden areas, with the District's upgrading of water mains in those same neighborhoods. Not as easy as it may appear, given the City's duty during construction to maintain traffic flow and access to homes and businesses in the affected areas and the District's duty to maintain sufficient water supply and pressure for both consumption and fire protection. Fortunately, we are experiencing good cooperation with the City in planning this mutual effort.

Finally, our efforts to market our excess water to neighboring communities are proceeding rapidly. As we have reported earlier, the successful completion of these wholesale sales agreements will produce future profits to the District allowing us to minimize rate increases to you, our constituents.

Spring is coming! Enjoy.

*Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners*

COMING ATTRACTIONS...

LWD Celebrates 65 Years of Service in 2008!

June 1, 2008 will mark 65 years of service for Lakewood Water District.

We are busily planning a fun and meaningful celebration for all of us, beginning this summer and continuing throughout the year. Stay tuned...we'll be telling you all about it on our Website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org and also in the Summer Edition of *The Pipeline*!

In the meantime, feel free to call or drop in to see what we have planned and how you can participate!



Seasonal Flushing Underway:

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.



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.

District to Distribute Water Quality and Annual Business Report in June 2008

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 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 or additional copies, call Christie Butler at the District office at 588-4423.

Thanks from Our Meter Readers

Our Meter Readers thank you for keeping your water meter cleared of yard debris and various rubble the wind may blow in from time to time. This helps us to be able to access your meter and get an accurate read, which in turn, results in an accurate billing for you. If for some reason we are unable to access your meter, we will simply send you an estimated water bill until we can obtain an accurate read.



As you landscape and beautify your yard, our Meter Readers also thank you for keeping your water meter free of soil, rock, and beauty bark. If you are not sure where your water meter is located, please call 588-4423 and we will be glad to help you locate it. Again, our Meter Readers thank you!

Credit Card, Online & Automatic Bill Payment Options

The District continues to accept VISA or MasterCard credit or check cards, making it easy for you to pay your bill in person, over the phone, or online. For assistance with using the online features that are available to you, just call us at 588-4423, and we'll be glad to help.

As always, we continue to offer the convenience of our Automatic Bill Payment Service, where your payment is automatically deducted from the account you designate. If you would like to sign up for Automatic Bill Payment, either contact the District Office at 588-4423 or download the application from the District Web site at: www.lakewood-water-dist.org.

