



WINTER, 2008  
Issue 50

**Keeping Lakewood  
Water District  
Customers Informed  
"SERVING THIS  
COMMUNITY SINCE  
1943"**

**Happy New  
Year**

**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](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org)

**BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS**

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Vice President:

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General Manager:

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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

## An Update From Your Commissioners

*Thank you, voters, for returning Bill Philip to the District for another term as commissioner. His advice and guidance over 39 years has been instrumental in producing a District that enjoys good financial health, low rates, talented management, a loyal and productive staff, excellent water quality, and a delivery system as modern and efficient as any in the state.*

*In December 2007, we adopted our operating and capital expenditure budgets for 2008. As we announced in the local newspaper, this year's budget reflects the theme of Maintaining System Reliability While Becoming a Regional Water Purveyor; outlining the projected operational and maintenance activities and the investment of over 55,000 employee hours maintaining our system reliability at the highest level.*

*Unique to this budget will be the largest number of major Rehabilitation & Replacement (R&R) and Capital Improvement projects in District history to be in motion in any given year. This was not planned by the District but has resulted from a number of timing factors outside of the District's control, to include the City's schedule for its Tillicum sewer project, Sound Transit's timeline for the Lakewood station project, and a number of factors changing in the development and forecasting of the District's wholesale water main project. The major projects slated for 2008 include Phase I of a new 6-mile wholesale water main, water main upgrades in the Tillicum area in conjunction with the City of Lakewood's sewer project, a new pressure zone in the South Tacoma Way area (see article and map on the back page), a 42-inch bore and 16-inch water main going underneath I-5 in the Springbrook area, and a 30-inch bore going underneath the railroad tracks at the Lakewood Sound Transit station.*

*We are very pleased to report, the District recently received approval for a Public Works Trust Fund pre-construction loan to help pay for the engineering and other soft costs associated with the wholesale water main project. These low-interest loans come from funds set aside by the State Legislature to be allocated by the Public Works Board to general governments who qualify. The Public Works Board provides financial and technical assistance to Washington municipalities for critical public health, safety, and environmental infrastructure. These funds will significantly contribute to the completion of the projects needed in 2008 for the continued strength and well-being of the District, without needing to impose a rate increase upon our customers or reduce our District reserves.*

*By the time this newsletter makes its way to you by way of our billing cycles, you may have heard about the new Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule that the District, and all other water purveyors, must comply with in 2008. At the time of this writing, we are looking forward to a public meeting on January 17 to explain to you the rule's requirements, share with you the District's compliance measures, and get your input on all of the above. We are pleased to report, the District already meets the majority of the requirements for the new WUE.*

*We are looking at ways to help meet the State's model of a more stringently tiered block rate for conservation—or as we like to call it, water-wise usage. In this next year, we will be investigating the addition of a new tier to our rate structure and educating our customers as we go along. It is anticipated we may add a new tier in 2009 that would affect high-volume consumers.*

*Compliments to our staff in controlling costs and working so hard and efficiently. We are proud of the fact that we will be able to take on a very full project load in 2008 with no increase in rates. We remain the water purveyor with the lowest rates in the Puget Sound area, we are proud of that position, and we will strive to maintain it.*

*Happiest of holidays to you and yours from all of us, and may you enjoy a safe, prosperous, and rewarding new year.*

*Sincerely,*

*Your Board of Commissioners*

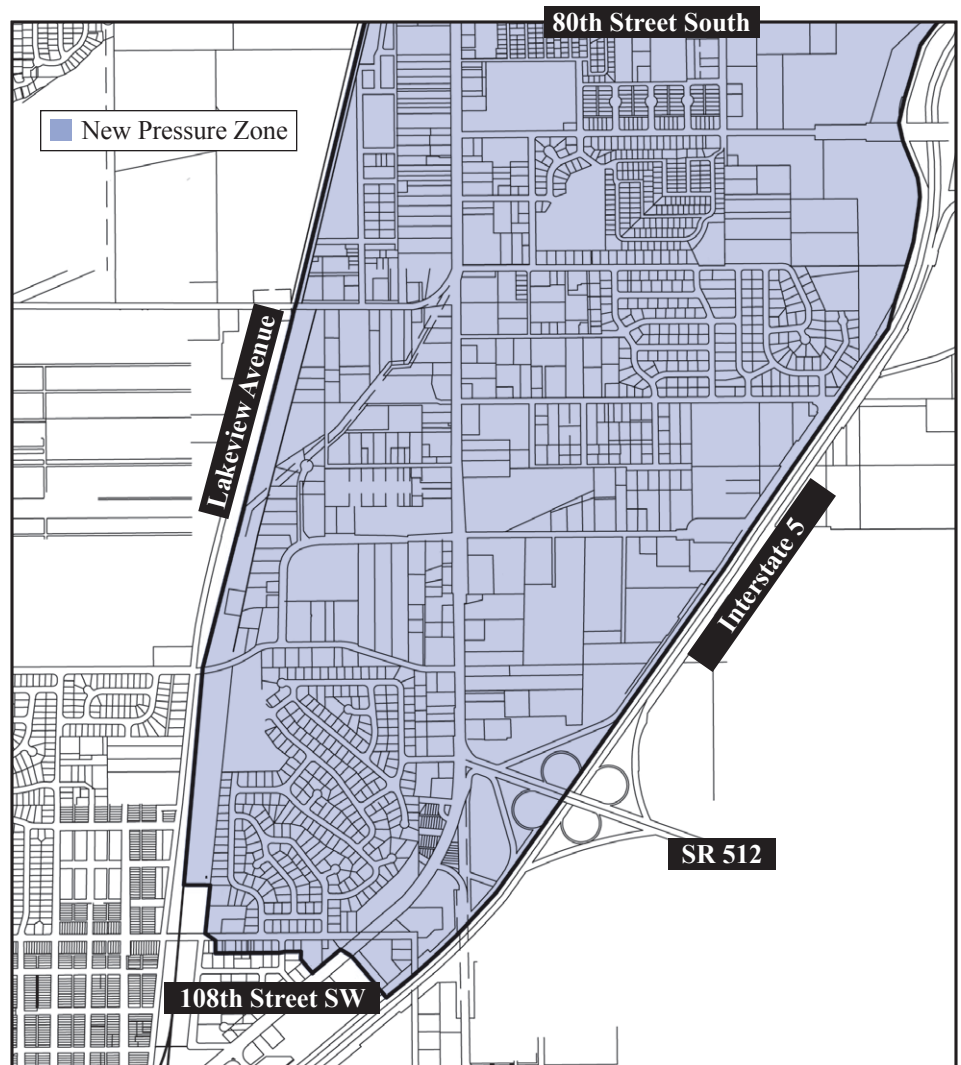
## Increasing Pressure in a Low-Pressure Area

Lakewood Water District is moving forward with the generation of a new 455° pressure zone in the northeast corner of our service area. The location of the new pressure zone is roughly described as the area between Lakeview Avenue (the railroad tracks) and I-5, and north of 108th Street East.

The water pressure in this area will increase 22 pounds-per-square-inch (psi.). The purpose of this new pressure zone is to provide better water pressure, fire flow, and hydraulic conditions to the area.

Before the final proposal nears construction, Lakewood Water District will notify each individual customer of the anticipated change in pressure. In 2008, we will also conduct an evening meeting open to the public to discuss the changes before the work commences.

If you have any questions regarding the proposal, you may contact our Pumping & Water Treatment Department Head, Dave Hall or our Superintendent, Roger Nottage at the office at 588-4423.



## Why Think About Spring in the Winter?

*Believe it or not, spring will be here before you know it! That means the start of the lawn watering season. All lawn irrigation systems are required to be protected with a backflow prevention device, and to be tested annually to ensure they are working properly.*

If you are considering putting in a new irrigation system this spring, please contact the District office at 588-4423 to obtain valuable information regarding your backflow system.

Protecting our water supply is very important. By working together, we can ensure the continued safety of our water supply and protect our long-time record of meeting or exceeding all water quality standards.

Our cross connection program has been established for 20 years, with over 4,700 backflow assemblies installed. The District is very proud of our cross connection program and its valued success.

## Online, Credit/Debit Card and Automatic Bill Payment

*The District now offers three convenient ways to make your payments in addition to the traditional payments by check.*

1. Use the new Online Citizen Web by visiting [www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org) and clicking on Pay My Bill Using Online Services. If you need a PIN number, please call Customer Service at 253-588-4423.
2. Visa and MasterCard credit or check cards – either in person or over the phone
3. Automatic Bill Payment Service – contact the District Office at 253-588-4423 to set it up or download the application from the District Web site.

*We continue to look for new and improved ways to serve you better.*

