



FALL, 2007
Issue 49

**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

Would someone on speaking terms with the spirits who control such things, please tell them enough is enough! How can we sell water if the weather is cool and wet and people are not watering their lawns? This has been an unusual summer in that regard. It is interesting how water consumption fluctuates dramatically with the weather during the summer months. We realize it is politically and environmentally correct to urge conservation of our resources but, honestly, we have plenty of water which, to the extent it is not used, simply flows through our aquifers into the Puget Sound. Of course, we always promote wise water use; it's just that "wise" does not necessarily mean "less." Here in Lakewood Water District we can enjoy "guilt-free" green lawns and fruitful gardens all summer long, thanks to our plenteous water supply.

With our recent purchase of certain water rights from the Abitibi Mill property in Steilacoom and our possible acquisition of the balance of such rights still available, your District has an abundant supply. We have ensured the needs of our customers will be met for decades, including, primarily, residents of the District as well as our present and future wholesale purchasers.

Upon reaching an agreement with the City of Lakewood to pay a "franchise fee" to the City, the District had to develop a plan for passing that fee on to our customers. We determined, initially, that the most equitable plan was to charge each customer based upon the size of its water meter. For instance, a single family residence with a small meter would pay less than a multifamily or commercial property served by a larger meter. It was called to the City's and our attention, however, that certain single family residences, when built, for whatever reason, were served by large meters and, therefore, their owners were paying fees out of proportion to their actual water usage. Both the City and the District want to correct this inequity. Consequently, we have agreed with the City to amend our agreement to allow us to change our method of calculating, collecting, and remitting the franchise fee to the City so our customers will pay fees based upon their actual consumption of water after January 1, 2008, regardless of meter size. This may not please large consumers, but we now feel it is a fairer way of sharing the burden of the fee.

Although unusually cool and somewhat wet, we trust you have enjoyed your summer. Perhaps by the time this goes to press and finds its way to you via our billing cycles, you will have enjoyed a few more sunny, warm days. However, come rain or shine, we are here to serve you and are proud to provide our customers with an abundance of good, clean water at the lowest rates around.

*Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners*

LWD Sets Good Security Example

Another anniversary of the 9/11 attack has passed, and the District continues to place great importance on the security of its water system and facilities. A significant amount of dollars have been spent in various areas of the District's wells, tanks, and pump stations, and all the security upgrades outlined by District personnel in 2002 have been implemented. In fact, many other purveyors and jurisdictions in Pierce County, as well as throughout the State of Washington, have used the District's security measures as a model for their own. The District views our customers as an integral part of its security system. Should you ever see or hear any suspicious activity on any public utility property, please call the authorities immediately. Thank you for continuing to be our partner in securing and protecting our good water supply.



Getting Ready for Fall & Winter

Now is the time to begin preparing your home and yard for winter weather. Here are some simple tips to help you save money and avoid frozen pipes should temperatures drop.

1. Disconnect and drain your outdoor garden hoses as this will help to keep ice from forming in the hose and back into your outside faucets which could cause damage.
2. Wrap all outside faucets or protect them with faucet covers.
3. Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. **This device is not the meter shut-off valve.** Most homes have shut-off valves installed for easy access in case of an emergency.
4. If you are going to be out of town for an extended period of time, be sure to have someone check your home regularly or have your water shut off while you are away.
5. In sub-freezing temperatures, letting faucets drip slightly can prevent frozen pipes. Just opening a faucet to a slow drip can relieve excessive pressure that may build inside the pipes and reduce any ice blockage that may form. You may also want to open the doors under your sink areas to allow warm air to circulate around your pipes.



Winterize Your Irrigation System Now

Now is also the time to winterize your irrigation system. Here are the proper procedures for winterizing your double-check valve assembly. If you are not sure what type of backflow prevention you have, please call our Cross Connection Department at 588-4423, and we will be happy to tell you what type of backflow device you have and how to properly winterize it.

1. Turn off your main irrigation shut-off valve.
2. Drain excess water out of double-check valve. Open the four test cocks one at a time until water stops flowing.
3. Always close the test cocks to prevent dirt or microorganisms from getting into your system.
4. Turn the two ball valves on the assembly at the half-open/half-off position.
5. Wrap your assembly with insulation or newspaper should we experience freezing temperatures.



Enjoy the fall season and, as always, be water wise!

Citizen Web Online Services Available

The District has in place our Internet-based program called Citizen Web that provides new online opportunities to our customers. This new site enables you to pay your water bill, look at your account history, print copies of statements, request statements to be emailed to you, and request service orders on your account...all online!

To access the new, convenient services of Citizen Web, just go to our website at www.lakewood-water-dist.org and click on "Pay My Bill Using Online Services" in the middle of the page. Our customers can also visit our website to stay abreast of all events and projects here at the District.

You should have received a letter from the District notifying you of your PIN number and giving you additional details and information on how to use all the services of this new website.

If you have not received your PIN number, please contact our Customer Service staff at 253-588-4423.

The District continues to accept VISA or MasterCard credit or check card payments, making it available for our customers to pay their bill in person or over the phone. And, 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. To sign up for Automatic Bill Payment, you can contact the District Office at 588-4423 or download the application from the District Web site at: www.lakewood-water-dist.org.



CONSTRUCTION REPORT 2007

The Lakewood Water District field staff has been very busy this year. Among the many projects completed so far in 2007, are 1203 feet of 8-inch main and three hydrants installed for Sound Transit; 1062 feet of 8-inch main and four hydrants installed at the Lakewood Ford dealership; 578 feet of 8-inch main and one hydrant installed at the Boys and Girls Club; and 727 feet of 8-inch main and two hydrants at Lakeview Elementary School. We are presently in the design stage for a 16-inch transmission main from Sound Transit to 108th Street, and a major water main upgrade, along with new services, fire hydrants, and valves, in the Tillicum area as an adjunct to the City of Lakewood sewer project.