



SUMMER, 2006
Issue 44

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

Published by
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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President:
Lawrence R Ghilarducci, Jr.
Vice President:
William W. Philip
Secretary:
John S. Korsmo, Jr.
General Manager:
Randy Black

The Board of Commissioners meets
the 3rd Thurs. of each month at the
District office - 3:30 pm.
Public Welcome



The Pipeline

An Update From Your Commissioners

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

Annually, by law, the Lakewood Water District is subjected to an extensive audit by the Washington State Auditor's Office. While they review all aspects of our operation, each year they pay particular attention to different elements of it, for example, the handling of cash; the accounting for our inventory of supplies, tools, and equipment; whether or not the meetings of the Commissioners are conducted and reported pursuant to applicable statutes; the proper investment of our funds; or the application of appropriate accounting principles in the preparation and maintenance of our financial reports.

We are delighted to report that for the year 2004, for which the most recent audit was completed, we received a totally "clean" report, together with compliments from the auditing team on how the business of the District is conducted, the cooperation of our staff in the performance of the audit, and our willingness to seek advice from the Auditor's Office during the year as questions arise. Compliments to General Manager Randy Black and Finance Director David Logan along with all of our employees who participated in this year's audit.

Recently, we decided to afford our customers the opportunity to pay their bills by credit cards or credit check cards. Although we pay a fee to the credit card issuers for their services, we calculated the reduction in costs to the District in the processing of payments to exceed those fees. It appears there may also be savings to the customer in that checks no longer need to be written, postage expense is eliminated, and payments are credited immediately to the account. So far, we have had a good response, with customers "signing up" almost every day. We hope more and more of you will take advantage of this service, since keeping our cost down helps keep our rates down.

At this writing, our most visible capital improvement project, the remodeling and expansion of our headquarters facilities at Gravelly Lake Drive SW and Washington Boulevard, is nearing completion. We hope to be in and operating in early June. This is your District, so come on by and take a look!

Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners

State Audit Results

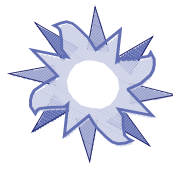
The State Auditor's Office has completed the District's 2004 audit. The yearly audit includes a complete review of financial and compliance practices, reviewing high-risk areas, how the District meets state and local regulations, and our financial statements.

The auditors not only once again cited no deficiencies in this year's audit, they were highly complimentary of the District's strong financial policies, precise accounting practices, and highly competent and cooperative staff. The District is proud of its history of consistently clean audits.

Your elected Commissioners and District management and staff work diligently to guide the District in maintaining our financial stability so we can continue to serve you effectively.

Water-Wise Summer

Here are ten suggestions that can help you use water wisely outside this summer.



1. Water your lawn only when it is needed. A good way to check if your lawn needs watering is to step on the grass; if it springs back when you move, it does not need to be watered. If the grass lays flat, it is time to water.
2. Deep-soak your lawn. When watering your lawn, do it long enough for the moisture to soak down to the roots where it will be most beneficial for the grass. A light sprinkling can evaporate quickly and tends to encourage shallow root systems.
3. When watering your lawn, be sure to water during the cooler part of the day. Early morning generally is better than dusk since it helps prevent the growth of fungus.
4. Be sure to position your sprinkler so the water hits your lawn and garden. Avoid watering the street or pavement. Also avoid watering on windy days.
5. Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. There are many beautiful trees and plants that thrive with far less watering than other species.
6. Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow the evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth.
7. You can use a broom rather than a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.
8. You can save water by washing your car with a pail of soapy water and then using the hose just to rinse it off.
9. Caution your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers.
10. Check for leaks in pipes, hoses, faucets, and couplings. Leaks outside the house may not seem as bad since they are not as visible, but they can be just as wasteful as leaks inside. Check frequently and keep them drip-free.



Thanks from the Lakewood Water District, and have a water-wise summer.

Are You or Your Tenant Moving?

If you are moving and need to close your account or transfer the responsibility for paying the water bill, please contact our Customer Service Department one day prior to your move-out date. This allows the District staff adequate time to schedule the service order, read your meter, and close your account. Your closing bill will be calculated, water deposit applied, and mailed to your forwarding address within two weeks.

PLEASE NOTE: A new owner or tenant is responsible for contacting our office to set up service and pay a deposit. Where applicable and possible, this should be done within seven days of closing the old account.

It is also important that all owners and rental agencies contact the District Office before your tenant vacates your property to obtain the amount owing on their final bill.

Remember, according to RCW laws, the owner is ultimately responsible for all outstanding debts and penalties not paid in full by your tenant.



Credit Card and Automatic Bill Payment

The District is pleased to announce it now accepts VISA or MasterCard credit or check cards, making it available for our customers to pay their bill in person or over the phone. Internet online payment options will be available soon. 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.

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.



Customer Service Staff accepts first credit card payment.

District Acquires Life-Saving Machine

Lakewood Water District has purchased an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). This life-changing and life-saving machine is mounted in the District's main office, readily available for the District's recently trained and certified staff to utilize



to potentially save the life of a customer, vendor, or fellow employee in the case of cardiac arrest. Our AED selection, staff training, certification, and maintenance is conducted with the full support of the Lakewood Fire Department. We believe this was another case of dollars well spent to further protect and enhance the lives of customers, community, and staff.