

# The Pipeline

WINTER, 2006  
Issue 46

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

HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

The Commissioners  
and staff of Lakewood  
Water District wish  
you a very joyous  
and prosperous  
New Year!

Published by  
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[www.lakewood-water-dist.org](http://www.lakewood-water-dist.org)

## BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President:

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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



## An Update From Your Commissioners

Does it seem to you that nearly every one of our quarterly reports includes some self-congratulatory verbiage relating to our low rates? Well, you are correct. We like to brag about them and do whenever we can. The reason? We are proud of our District and the dedicated staff which operates it so efficiently. In addition, virtually every decision we, as Commissioners, make is driven in part by our desire to maintain those low rates while serving you at the highest level. Despite the normal pressures of increasing costs of all goods and services and compliance with seemingly ever-increasing regulatory requirements, we have been able to maintain much lower rates than all other water purveyors in the area. We pledge to continue along that path so long as we can maintain our organization as an independent municipal corporation.

Recently, however, two matters are resulting in pressure to increase charges to you.

First, after having no rate increase for a couple of years, we, like everyone else, are experiencing increases in the cost of doing business. We published a press release in "The News Tribune" in November to announce the review of the Draft Budget and again in December to announce the review of the final 2007 Budget at our December 21, 2006 Regular Meeting. In both press releases, we included a notice of a pending rate increase for 2007. At that time, we were uncertain of the increase amount, but we estimated a 9.5 percent. At our December 21 meeting, we approved the 2007 Budget and approved a 9.5 percent rate increase to be effective March 1, 2007.

Second, as you probably have read, the City of Lakewood has been negotiating a Franchise Agreement with the District. The City budgeted for 2007 a revenue stream in the nature of a franchise fee payable by the District to the City for allowing our water system to exist in its rights-of-way. The City has indicated to us that they need additional revenue primarily to provide the police protection promised its citizens by the proponents of incorporation. After much negotiation, we have agreed to a 20-year Franchise Agreement. A component of that agreement is to pass on a City of Lakewood Franchise Fee on the bills of our retail customers living within the City limits who benefit from the increased police protection.

During the administration of the prior City Manager of Lakewood, negotiations with regard to the franchise agreement and the fee were not fruitful. Since Andrew Neiditz has assumed office, however, communication between the District and the City has improved significantly, a better spirit of cooperation has developed, and we believe an agreement has now been reached which will benefit both the District and the City. We will provide you with greater details of this agreement in a separate mailing in the very near future.

Sincerely,  
Your Board of Commissioners

## Winterizing Your Irrigation System

Be safe. Make sure you follow the correct procedures for winterizing double-check valve assemblies:

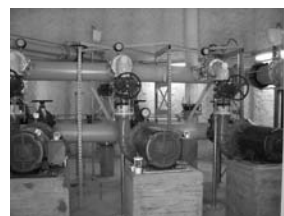
- Turn off main irrigation shutoff valve & drain excess water out of the double-check valve.
- Close the test cocks to prevent any dirt from entering your system.
- Put the two ball valves on the assembly at a half-on, half-off position.
- If we get a bad freeze, wrapping the assembly with newspaper or insulation is a good idea.

Further questions can be directed to our Cross Connection Department at 253-588-4423 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



## New Hemlock Tank Complete

The new .5-million-gallon hydropillar tank between Hemlock Street and Sharon Street is complete and on-line. We wish to thank our neighbors in the area for their patience and perseverance during construction. Building the tank was a long and entailed process, but this new tank will provide service for many years to come. Accompanying the



tank is a new booster pump station. This station pumps water from the Dunbar Reservoir and

sends it to the water tower on Farwest Drive, thereby providing domestic and fire flow demand for the Lake Louise, Pierce College, and Arrowhead areas. This project is another example of the District's commitment to provide the best service possible to all its customers.

## Community "Water-Wise Usage" Outreach and Education

Lakewood Water District's Community Outreach and Education Coordinator, Don Stanley, is available to speak to your group, organization, or classroom. Information is provided explaining Lakewood's water sources and distribution and how to use water wisely. Don's programs can be catered to fit any age group. Information is presented with clear and easy-to-understand presentations. Don incorporates slide shows, pamphlets, and entertaining lectures for a fun and educational experience.

Your group or organization can contact Don at the District office at 253/588-4423 if you require any further information or wish to schedule a presentation.

## 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, *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 253-588-4423. If you need assistance after hours, please call 253-588-2296. **Thank you for your cooperation.**



## EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

### Employee Retires After 21 Years

Sharon Lord retired from Lakewood Water District on September 29, 2006, after nearly 21 years of service. Sharon, hired as a meter reader in October 1985, soon began to help with the drafting of District maps that grew into the District's mapping on a CAD (computer-aided drawing) system. Sharon was involved with many aspects of the District's field operations, including water sampling and water quality, ons and offs, check-for-leaks, disconnects, and water quality reporting for the District's annual Water Quality & Business Report.



While Sharon especially excelled at mapping and water sampling/water quality, perhaps her strongest "suit" was customer service in the field. She placed the highest priority on making sure our customers were well taken care of and that any question or concern was quickly, thoroughly, and clearly answered. Sharon concluded her years at the District as a Water Worker III, the highest classification of that position, and she is now off to enjoy the "position" of a happy retiree. We wish Sharon all the best.

## Owner/Tenant Attachment

The District now offers the service of "attaching" a tenant's account to the owner's hold account. With this attachment, the owner receives notification from the District office if their tenant's account becomes delinquent. The owner will receive an exact copy of the statement or delinquent letter the tenant receives. If you are interested in being "attached" to your tenant's account, please call the District Office at 253-588-4423, and a customer service representative will assist you.