

The Pipeline



Issue 38

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

FALL, 2004

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

From Your Commissioners

Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,

As your Board of Commissioners of the Lakewood Water District, we carefully monitor our revenues and expenses on a constant basis. In the January 2004 winter edition of our newsletter, The Pipeline, we told you about a plan to implement an additional tier into our rate structure in the fall. Adding this tier would fall within the State Department of Health's recommendations for rate structures promoting water conservation and would affect approximately 60 percent of our customers, those who use more than 1500 cubic feet of water every two months. The State water conservation standards do not yet require the District to include this additional tier. Therefore, after much discussion at our August 19, 2004 Regular Meeting, the Board decided not to add an additional tier at this time.

Also at our August 19 meeting, the Board was presented with a forecast regarding the District's needs for 2005. Some of these needs include the recovery of increased health care costs, funding for future capital projects, the continuation of our Replacement and Rehabilitation Program replacing old water mains as they reach the end of their engineered life spans, and implementing security measures for our facilities. At this time, our analyses show a need for a rate increase of at least 6 percent to help recover these costs and provide funding for projects necessary in the future. Separate from this would be any additional increases necessary to cover the costs of implementing fluoride into our water system, should the majority of our customers vote "yes" for fluoride on November 2, 2004. The last rate increase the District had was two years ago.

We understand that any rate increase is unwelcome, no matter how necessary it is. We know this is particularly true for our customers on a fixed income. That is why we continue to work hard to keep our costs down and look for any possible savings in our budget. We look long and hard at any rate increase before passing it on to you, our valued customers. Our mission continues to be to provide our community with a safe, clean, reliable water supply as efficiently and cost effectively as possible. We are aggressively committed to this mission, and are proud to still be able to offer our customers the lowest water rates in the region.

As we continue to work through our 2005 Budget process, we will be able to calculate more specifically the actual increase percentage necessary, and we will keep you informed. We thank you for your faithful support of your Lakewood Water District. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions on how we can improve service to you, please feel free to call us at 588-4423.

*Sincerely,
Your Board of Commissioners*

SECURITY INFORMATION:

Once again the District was able to safely meet the demands of a busy, warm summer while maintaining a high level of quality. All the time, effort, and money the District has spent in recent years to safeguard and control its water resources are really paying off.

As we've reported in previous newsletters, over the next several years the District will be increasing its security budget to enhance and maintain even safer and more secure sites. We appreciate our neighbors and their on-going vigilance and awareness regarding District sites, property, and equipment.

We would like everyone to extend that awareness to include all the fire hydrants in the District as well. Only District personnel and the Lakewood Fire Department should be connected to a fire hydrant. Occasionally, the District will allow a contractor the use of a hydrant with the proper meter and backflow device. If you see any individual hooked up to a hydrant that you for any reason believe is not authorized, please contact the Lakewood Water District or the Lakewood Police Department.



SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

The Interlaaken Drive R & R project will commence in the fall of 2004. The budgeted amount is \$150,000 to install a 12-inch ductile iron water main on Interlaaken Drive between Washington Boulevard and Veterans Drive. All the water service connections between the new main and the meter will be replaced and upgraded. New fire hydrants will also be installed. This project will be the first segment of main replacements in the North American Lake and Veterans Drive area. This project will continue through the year 2009.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

The District is happy to provide guest speakers to educate the public about water wise usage, wellhead protection, backflow prevention, or other water-related subjects. We are available by appointment for any organizations that are interested.

Elementary schools in the Clover Park School District are some of our favorite places to present educational programs. We feel that young children are the future of water wise usage and water quality preservation. One of our goals for the 2004-2005 school year is to do at least one presentation at each school in the area.

If you know of any groups that would be interested in water education, please call Don Stanley at 588-4423.



WINTER IS COMING... PREPARE NOW!

Now is a good time to check your home and prepare for the winter weather around the corner. A few steps today can eliminate trouble later. Here are a few ideas:

- Check your backflow system for leaks.
- Turn off all your outside spigots and empty the hoses—or a better idea, disconnect hoses altogether. For extremely cold weather, wrapping or covering spigots is prudent.
- Be sure you know where your shut-off valve is located.
- Exposed, vulnerable pipe should be repaired with insulation sleeves or wrapping available at most hardware stores.
- In sub-freezing temperatures, letting faucets drip slightly could prevent damage. Just opening a faucet to a slow drip can relieve excessive pressure that builds between the faucet and any ice blockage that may form.
- If you will be out of the area for a prolonged period of time, you may choose to contact the District office to have your water shut off until you return.



WINTERIZING YOUR IRRIGATION SYSTEM:

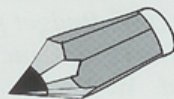
Here are the correct procedures for winterizing double-check valve assemblies:

- Turn off main irrigation shutoff valve.
- Drain excess water out of the double-check valve—open the four test cocks one at a time until water stops flowing.
- Close the test cocks. This will prevent any dirt or microorganisms from getting into 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 588-4423 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.



AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT:



If you are looking for a convenient way to pay your water bill, the Lakewood Water District is accepting applications for our Automatic Bill Payment Service. If you would like to sign up for the Automatic Bill Payment Service, either contact the District Office at 588-4423 or you can obtain an application form at the Lakewood Water District website, www.lakewood-water-dist.org.



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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President: Lawrence Ghilarducci, Jr.

Vice President: William Philip

Secretary: Mark Hullinger

General Manager: Randy Black

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

Public Welcome

