

# The Pipeline



Issue 32

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Spring, 2003

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

## Security and Your Water Supply



In light of the horrendous events of 9/11/01, the Lakewood Water District has endeavored to enhance the safety and security of all its sites. We are currently working hand-in-hand with the Lakewood Police and the Pierce County Office of Emergency Management to produce a comprehensive program to meet strict security guidelines and procedures.

We have already completed a number of various security enhancements, including additional lighting. Please note that all Lakewood Water District employees carry a picture ID card and are more than happy to show it upon request.

While researching Lakewood Water District's security program, one thing has become abundantly clear; it is absolutely imperative to have the cooperation of all of our neighbors. Since we cannot constantly man our sites, it is up to our neighbors to look for and report any questionable, out-of-the-ordinary activity.

This activity includes any person or persons that do not have authorization from the Lakewood Water District to be on site. In order to increase visibility, Lakewood Water District plans to evaluate each site and the possibility of thinning vegetation where needed. We hope to achieve this while still retaining a well landscaped and park-like environment. Security studies indicate that increasing sight lines around utility facilities discourages an unwanted visitor.

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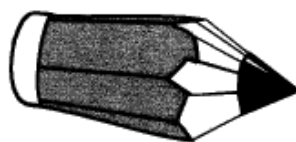
## From Your Commissioners

*Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,*

Your Board of Commissioners regrets to report that Pierce County Superior Court Judge Lisa Worswick ruled against the Lakewood Water District in its efforts to guarantee that you would have the right to vote on whether or not fluoride is added to your drinking water. Judge Worswick's ruling was not limited to Lakewood Water. She ruled against all of the groups opposing the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health's mandate to fluoridate their water.

The Board of Commissioners has authorized our attorneys to file an appeal of Judge Worswick's decision. Furthermore, because the Board believes that the decision does not correctly address the existing state law that specifically allows for a vote on fluoridation by citizens served by a special purpose water district, we are appealing directly to the State Supreme Court. Your Board believes denying citizens the right to vote is an issue of great constitutional importance, and we believe the Supreme Court is the appropriate venue to argue the matter. For that reason, we will be requesting the right to bypass the Court of Appeals. Either way, we have committed ourselves to the policy that a public vote must be paramount.

As the case progresses, we must never forget that the body which ordered mandatory fluoridation, the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health, is an appointed body. None of the members of the TPCBH live in or represent Lakewood. Your Board of Commissioners does not believe that a group of appointees with no ties to our community should be allowed to force you into this without representation or a vote. Based on the opinion of our legal counsel, we feel we will prevail in a legal appeal dealing specifically with our issue, unencumbered by other arguments.



**Looking for an easy way  
to pay  
your water bill?**

**Call the District office at  
253-588-4423  
to sign up for  
Automatic Withdrawal**

## Touch-Read Meter Update:

Lakewood Water District is continuing with the touch-read meter replacement program it began in 2001. This program will replace all current registers with an electronic version that allows our meter readers to walk up to a meter box, touch a sensor pad, and receive usage information. The District will implement this project over three years, at an approximate cost of \$1.2 million.

Cannon Construction is the contractor who will be doing the work for the District. The continuation of this project recently began in the Woodbrook neighborhood. The District plans to install approximately 6,000 to 7,200 new touch-read registers this year. Neighborhoods scheduled for the new touch-read registers will be Lake Louise, Robin Hood, Dowerdell, Lake View, Southgate, and Crystal Springs. The touch-read system will result in significant long-term savings to our rate-payers due to the accuracy of the new meters and the time saved in reading them.

The installation for the touch-read register takes about 10 to 20 minutes to complete, and the water may need to be shut off at that time. The crew will knock on your door to inform you when they are working at your meter. If you are not home, they will leave a door hanger to notify you that they have worked on your meter.



## Security, cont'd

Vandalism can be just as serious a crime as terrorism in its negative effect on the operation of the system and the cost to the ratepayers.

Please, if you see anything suspicious, notify the Lakewood Police by calling 911. If you feel it necessary to notify the Lakewood Water District, please call 588-4423 or 588-2296 after regular business hours.

## Seasonal Flushing Underway

It is the time of year for the Lakewood Water District flushing crew to be out flushing the District's water mains.

Flushing is an annual maintenance task that Lakewood Water District's crew takes on every year beginning the first week of March and continuing through the first week of July.

This time of year is chosen because of the warmer temperatures, which will prevent any frozen roadways while we flush water out onto the streets. This also allows for the flushing to be completed before our peak demand of the pumping season.

Natural mineral deposits of iron and manganese get built up around the inside of the 4-inch and larger water mains. So, annually we flush the system by pulling water from a storage tank or reservoir and proceed from hydrant to hydrant with high flows of water. This is called high velocity flushing. The hydrants are turned on full speed out of the front pumper port. This action causes a scouring of the inside of the water mains.

Be sure to watch for our blue and white street notification signs giving you a 48-hour advance notice of the Lakewood Water District's flushing crew coming to your neighborhood.

If you should 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. You should refrain from doing laundry during this time. You may want to use it only for toilet flushing, lawn watering, etc.

Between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., our crews will be flushing in your areas.

If the water remains dark and cloudy after these hours, **RUNNING YOUR OUTSIDE FAUCET** for 5 to 10 minutes should clear up this problem.

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You also might experience **LOW WATER PRESSURE** in your area for up to a week after the flushing.

If you have any questions, please call our office at 588-4423. If you need assistance after hours, please call 588-2296.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.**

## Backflow Prevention for Irrigation Systems

Irrigation systems make watering lawns and gardens easier and save time. However, these systems must be protected to prevent water possibly contaminated by weed killers and/or fertilizers from being back-siphoned into your drinking water. Irrigation systems not protected by approved backflow prevention assemblies could endanger the health of your household, neighborhood, and community.

All irrigation systems—new or existing—must be equipped with an approved backflow prevention assembly. Only properly installed, state-approved assemblies meet the plumbing code and provide health protection for your family and neighbors.

Lakewood Water District can provide you with any information you may need to meet this requirement. Please call 588-4423 and speak with Miles or Ronda in our Cross Connection Department.



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

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President: Larry Ghilarducci

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*

