

# The Pipeline



Issue 33

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Summer, 2003

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

## From Your Commissioners

*Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,*

In our communications with you, our customers, we often refer to "your Lakewood Water District," in order to highlight the fact that you're not just a customer of the District, you're also an owner. With so much of our physical plant located underground or tucked away off the major traffic routes of our community, it is easy to overlook just how much is really there. This month, we want to quantify just what it means to you to be a part owner of Lakewood Water District.

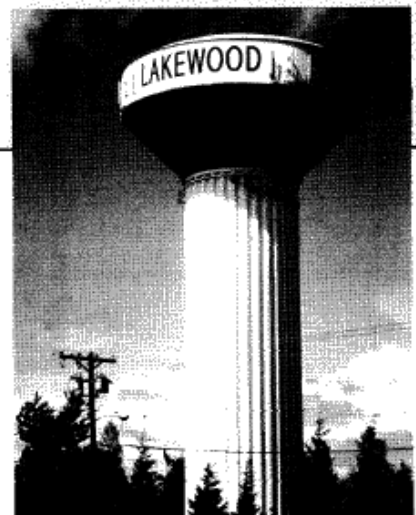
Lakewood Water District is one of the largest water utilities in Washington state. Our total asset value is about \$35 million or a little more than \$500 per person and a little more than \$1,300 per household. Approximately \$28 million of the total asset value is the value of our physical plant. Major assets of the physical plant include 13 water tanks, 31 wells, 250 miles of water mains, 1,600 fire hydrants, 29 buildings, 3,464 valves, 17 trucks, and 9 emergency generators. All together, the monies committed to building the water district over the last 60 years add up to a significant investment in our community.

The value of the water district doesn't stop with just the physical assets. We have an annual payroll of nearly \$1.2 million and pay out nearly \$3.4 million annually for goods and services to support the continued operations and enhancements of the District. Most of these dollars remain in our community. In fact, with annual capital expenditures exceeding \$2 million, the bulk of the non-payroll dollars end up being put right back into the utility, constantly increasing its value to our community.

Our community has a major investment in Lakewood Water District, but dollars and cents don't tell the whole story. We have long enjoyed relatively low fire insurance rates in our community. Part of this is because of our excellent fire department. The fact that Lakewood Water District consistently exceeds all federal, state, and local standards for fireflow through our hydrants is a major factor as well. This is an often-overlooked role of a water utility. Those big water tanks stand, in large part, to provide the emergency reserves necessary to put out a major fire. The industrial parks, shopping centers, even schools and hospitals, couldn't be built without the water storage to fight a potential fire.

Your Lakewood Water District is an important part of our community, a significant asset, and a vital link in the economic chain. We're proud of the services we provide our community. On behalf of our management and staff, we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Your Board of Commissioners



*See back for important summer information*

## New Treatment Plants Help Keep Water Safe, Good-tasting

The Lakewood Water District has always endeavored to provide its customers with the highest quality water possible. In order to achieve this, the District has built two iron and manganese removal filtration plants in the past two years, with a third plant scheduled to come on line in June of 2003. The final plant of four total is scheduled for construction in the fall of 2003.

Iron and manganese are naturally occurring minerals found in all deep well systems. The amount varies in each water source. Although there are no health hazards associated with iron and manganese deposits, there can definitely be some aesthetic issues.

There have already been noticeable positive results from the plants currently on line. There has been a remarkable decrease in the number of "dirty water" complaints; and the operational advantages, now afforded the District through expanded use of resources that once could only be used in high peak periods, have brought significant benefit to the District.

The District is once again well prepared to meet the requirements of the upcoming peak demand summer season. Most rehabilitation and maintenance projects are completed.

The District would like to emphasize that although there is plenty of water available, please use it wisely, and have a wonderful summer.

## Have a Water-Wise Summer

*Here are ten suggestions that can help you use water wisely outside during the summer. Help protect our local water supply!*

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.

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.

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.

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.

Plant drought-resistant trees and plants. Many beautiful trees and plants thrive with far less watering than other species.

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Mulch will slow the evaporation of moisture and discourage weed growth, too.

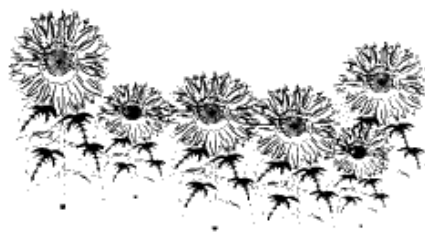
Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks.

Don't run your hose while washing your car. Clean the car with a pail of soapy water, and then use the hose just to rinse the car off.

Tell your children not to play with the hose and sprinklers.

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.



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### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

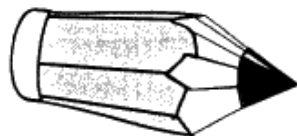
President: Lawrence Ghilarducci, Jr.

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



Looking for an easy way to pay your water bill?

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