

# The Pipeline



Issue 31

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Winter, 2003

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

## From Your Commissioners

*Dear Lakewood Water District Customer,*

Many of our customers were confused by the information in our last newsletter which was different from the information in our special mailings on the fluoride issue. Please keep in mind that our customer newsletter is published quarterly and distributed over a two-month billing cycle. This one will be inserted in the January/February billing statements. It is difficult to be both timely and accurate from two months in the past. That is precisely what happened with our last newsletter in which we talked about waiting for a decision from the Health Board before scheduling an election. It is also why we sent out two special mailings to all of our customers to keep you updated and informed on what was happening regarding the fluoride issue.

That said, as of the middle of November, we have filed our lawsuit against the fluoride mandate and requested immediate relief from having to pay a \$250 a day fine while we await a decision from a judge. If the ruling is favorable and we prevail, we will put the matter before our customers in an election, and you will have the right to choose whether or not you want fluoride added to our community water supply. There are also several other utilities, cities and citizens groups that have filed separate lawsuits against the Health Board. As of November 18, 2002, well over half of the citizens impacted by the fluoride mandate are represented by organizations with lawsuits pending against the Tacoma-Pierce County Board of Health.

With so many lawsuits arguing so many different points of the law against the fluoride mandate, it will probably take the courts some time to sort all of this out. We are hopeful that we can get a final decision soon, but we continue to be realistic about the difficulties involved. Obviously, all of this controversy is costing a great deal of money for all parties involved. We remain disappointed that the Board of Health refused to consider our many attempts to work with them in such a way as to keep this from turning into a legal tug-of-war. We also need to keep in mind that at any time the Board of Health could decide to entertain a cooperative approach that recognizes the due process rights of the citizens impacted by any fluoridation program. Should they do so, all of these problems and lawsuits could be ended and a great deal of taxpayer money saved.

Rest assured that we will continue to use all available means to safeguard your legal right to vote on this issue and we will keep you informed of our progress.

## PUMPING AND TREATMENT OPERATIONS UPDATE

In an ongoing effort to insure the best possible water quality, the Lakewood Water District is in the process of finishing circulation projects in five of its elevated tanks. The projects are designed to provide adequate mixing throughout the tank, resulting in the uniform delivery of Chlorine residual to the system. The large crane sitting astride the Bridgeport tank throughout the month of October has been a part of this project.

The third of four Iron and Manganese removal plants is scheduled to commence construction in December 2002, with completion set for March 2003. The final plant

should be completed and brought on line by June 2003. The addition of the Iron and Manganese removal filtration plants will allow the District to utilize all of its available resources to the utmost capacity.

Although the amount of Iron and Manganese in a typical deep well system does not constitute any type of health hazard, it can represent potential aesthetic issues such as staining porcelain plumbing fixtures. The removal plants will help to eliminate many such issues.

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**Best Wishes for  
The New Year** 

## WATER EDUCATION

Where does water come from? What can I do to save water around my home? What does the Lakewood Water District do? Don Stanley can easily answer these questions for your club, organization, or class.

Don is the Community Outreach and Educational Coordinator for the Lakewood Water District. He is available to speak with various groups about District operations and water conservation. Don has a variety of interactive PowerPoint slide presentations and informative handouts. His presentations, being both fun and educational, can be catered to fit any age group. Call the District office at 588-4423 to schedule an appointment.

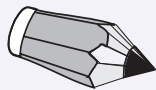
# WHAT IS A CROSS CONNECTION?

A cross connection is any actual or potential physical connection between a potable water line and any pipe, vessel, or machine containing a non-potable fluid or having the possibility of containing a non-potable fluid, solid, or gas, such that it is possible for the non-potable fluid, solid, or gas to enter the water system by backflow.

A cross connection could be any physical arrangement whereby a potable water supply is connected, directly or indirectly, with any non-potable or unapproved water supply system, sewer, drain, conduit, pool, storage reservoir, plumbing fixture, or any other device which contains, or may contain, contaminated water, liquid, gases, sewage, or other waste, of unknown or unsafe quality, which may be capable of imparting contamination to the potable water supply as a result of backflow. Bypass arrangements, jumper connections, removable sections, swivel or changeover devices, and other temporary, permanent, or potential connections through which, or because of which, backflow could occur, are considered to be cross connections.

## BACKFLOW

Backflow is a flow in reverse from the normal direction of flow in a piping system. It occurs due to a differential pressure existing between two different points within a continuous fluid system; a fluid of higher pressure flowing to a fluid of lower pressure. Backflow may occur due to either "backsiphonage" or "backpressure."



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## BACKSIPHONAGE

Backsiphonage is caused by negative pressure in the supply piping. Some common causes of backsiphonage are:

1. High velocities in pipe lines.
2. Line repair or break that is lower than a service point.
3. Lowered main pressure due to high water withdrawal rate such as fire fighting or water main flushing.
4. Reduced supply pressure on the suction side of the booster pump.

## BACKPRESSURE

Backpressure may cause backflow to occur when potable supply piping is connected to a system or fixture which exceeds the operating pressure of the supply piping. This higher pressure can be caused by booster pumps, boilers, pressure vessels, or elevated piping, such as high-rise buildings or tanks. If these connections are not properly protected, potable and non-potable water or liquids can be forced into the potable supply system.

Some common causes of backpressure are:

1. Booster pumps.
2. Potable water connections to boilers and other systems where thermal expansion is possible.
3. Interconnections with another system operated at a higher pressure.
4. Elevated piping (e.g., 30' above finished grade).

The above information was obtained from the Cross Connection Control Manual, Pacific Northwest Section A.W.W.A. 6th Edition.

Should you have any further questions regarding cross connection, please contact Miles Landon at 253-588-4423.

## COLD WEATHER – PROTECT YOUR HOME THIS WINTER

Now is the time to check your home to be sure you are ready for the cold weather. Here are a few ideas:

- Check your backflow system for leaks.

- Turn off all your outside water spigots and empty the hoses—or a better idea, disconnect hoses altogether. For extremely cold weather, cover or wrap spigots.
- Know where your water shut-off valve is located.

## EMPLOYEE SPOT LIGHT



Christine Clinton joined the



District in September 2002 as a Customer Service/Accounting Representative. Her duties include assisting District customers on setting up water service,

and processing payments. She also assists in our accounts payable department, is cross-training for the Electronic Funds Payment program, and handles our monthly operating reports. Christine was raised in Southern California and graduated from The Way College in 1990.

When Christine is away from the office, she and her husband Jay enjoy participating in the ministry at the local Bible fellowship they attend. They have been a part of this ministry for several years. They also both enjoy taking long drives, swimming, and hiking on the West Coast.



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### 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  
Add'l meetings, Sept. - Dec., 2002: first Thurs. of each month, 9 am.*

