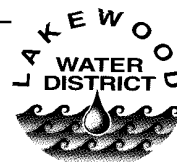


The Pipeline



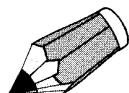
Issue 27

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Winter, 2002

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



The Lakewood Water District will be starting our next R&R (replacement & rehabilitation) Project in January of 2002. The District will be installing 2,454 feet of 12-inch ductile iron pipe, 463 feet of 8-inch ductile iron pipe, 521 feet of 6-inch ductile iron pipe, 6 feet of 4-inch ductile iron pipe, 7 new fire hydrants and 65 new service connection upgrades, replacing the piping from the main to the water meter. We will be working in the area of Meadow Road between Wildaire and 111th Street, 111th Street from Meadow Road to Gravelly Lake Drive SW including Glen Echo Road and Lake Avenue from Meadow Road to Lake Steilacoom.

We are proud to announce that improvements have been completed on the Wildaire Road R&R Project, which included Wildaire Road from Gravelly Lake Drive to Lake Steilacoom and also Brook Lane, Ponce De Leon and Mill Drive. We want to extend our appreciation to our customers in the area of the construction for any inconveniences that might have occurred during construction.

Lakewood Water District will provide its customers with water service that meets or exceeds all water quality standards, maintaining policies and practices that benefit the health and welfare of the community.

Beginning in March 2002, we will be starting up our annual District-wide flushing program. Flushing of our mains will continue until July. Look for our street notification signs letting you know when we will be in your neighborhood.

Commissioners' Comments

At this time last year, we informed you of an effort to change the State's rules regarding water rights. Though the track they began on was of great concern to public utilities throughout Washington, we are happy to report that it isn't the track we finished on. Your Lakewood Water District, along with many other public water supply utilities, worked with the Governor to modify the proposals and produce a result that could be of benefit to the citizens we serve, while still providing a higher level of environmental protection.

For the first time in decades, there appears to be a genuine recognition that public water suppliers have been a good steward of our vital public water resources and environmental habitat. This has opened the door for some real breakthroughs in solving problems utilities have had in gaining the flexibility necessary to serve our customers as efficiently and inexpensively as possible.

One of the key ways Lakewood Water District is leading the way in finding new ways to serve people with minimal impact on available resources is through flexible management of watersheds, aquifers, and withdrawal & use points. We are hopeful that a pilot program involving Lakewood Water District, Parkland Light & Water, Spanaway Water, Summit Water, Fruitland Water, and the City of Puyallup will be authorized in 2002, so we can move forward on implementing what we have learned from the many study programs we have participated in during the last ten years.

As always, the real power rests with the key policy and decision makers in Olympia. You can be certain that your Board of Commissioners intend to remain at the forefront of this effort and will keep you informed of our progress in working with Governor Locke and our Legislators.

From Your Commissioners

AUTOMATIC BILL PAYMENT:

The Lakewood Water District is now offering Automatic Electronic Funds Payment. This has become a very popular program and a significant number of customers have already signed up for this service. Please call the District office at 253-588-4423 if you are interested in this program, we have forms available for your convenience to initiate the process. We also have a form available on our website. It is a fast and convenient way to pay your water bill.

SPOTLIGHT:



Holly Silva joined the District in July 2001, as a customer service representative. Always with a smile, she is ready to help our customers with any issues they may have regarding their water service.

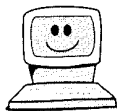
Holly was raised and resides in the Spanaway area with husband, Clark, and sons, Steven, Mark and Scott, along with cats, Bobby and Felix. When she's not at work, she enjoys spending time with her family and watching her sons play sports.



David Phillips has been a utility worker with the District since January 2001. David's duties include installation of mains and service/repair to water utilities. He was born in Florida and now lives here with wife, Hally, three children, Josh, Gretchen, Shauna and a Blue Heeler named Dinkka.

David enjoys helping customers in the District and after work likes gardening, camping, fishing and helping his wife with her volunteer work. He's also a very die-hard fan of the Florida Gators.

WEBSITE:



For those of you with Internet access, look for us at www.lakewood-water-dist.org. We have valuable information for our customers. We will provide tips on protecting your pipes in winter, water conservation, answer any of your questions and many more important topics. We also have an employment opportunity page where we list current job openings and related information. Please call David Logan in our personnel department at 588-4423 for specific job information.

COLD WEATHER - GET READY FOR WINTER NOW

Now is the time to check your home to make sure you are ready for the coming cold weather. A few steps today can eliminate trouble later. 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, wrapping or covering spigots is prudent.
- Be sure you know where your water 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, contact the District to have your water shut off.

ARE YOU A DIALYSIS PATIENT? WE NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE:

If you are a patient on a dialysis machine and are a customer of Lakewood Water District, it is very important that you notify the District Office at 588-4423 with your name, address and phone number. In case of any emergency, the District needs to be able to notify our dialysis customers regarding any water issues.

BACKFLOW NEWS:

Believe it or not, spring is right around the corner! We will be watering our lawns again before we realize it. With in-ground lawn watering systems comes the responsibility of backflow protection. Many of you are already on our program and are testing annually. If you are planning on installing an irrigation system please contact the District office so we can supply you with the necessary information for proper backflow protection for your system. We will be contacting customers with existing systems to ensure they are in compliance with backflow regulations.

Protecting our water supply is very important and together we can ensure that we meet or exceed all water quality standards. We have brochures available for your convenience. We also have lists of certified testers in the area and any other information you may need. We will give you our time and effort to make sure you are properly protected.

Our cross-connection program begins its 14th year in 2002. We modestly feel that it is one of the best in the state. We have only had two reported backflow incidents since the program began. We have approximately 3,300 backflow assemblies protecting our customers and the Lakewood Water District. We are very proud of this program. If you should have any questions, please contact our Cross-Connection Specialist – Miles Landon at 253-588-4423.

Published by Lakewood Water District

11900 Gravelly Lake Dr. SW
P.O. Box 99729
Lakewood, WA 98499-0729
Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-5:00pm Phone:(253)588-4423
Night/Emergency Phone: 588-2296



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

President: Larry Ghilarducci
Vice President: William Philip
Secretary: Mark Hullinger
Manager: Randy Black

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

