

The Pipeline



Issue 25

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Summer, 2001

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

Commissioners' Comments

Your Board of Commissioners would like to give credit to our local legislators. As you are aware, this year's state legislature has been working very hard on many complex and controversial issues, which has meant working longer hours and extra days. Our experience in dealing with them has shown that they do care about you, our ratepayers, and have been helpful to Lakewood Water District at many critical junctures.

Lakewood Water's customers are served by nine legislators: 2nd District Senator Marilyn Rasmussen & Representatives Roger Bush and Tom Campbell, 28th District Senator Shirley Winsley & Representatives Gigi Talcott and Mike Carrell, and 29th District Senator Rosa Franklin & Representatives Steve Conway and Steve Kirby. All nine have been helpful in protecting our ratepayers' interests, but two of them deserve special recognition.

Senator Marilyn Rasmussen has gone out of her way to look out for our customers' interests on many occasions. She has been a staunch supporter in moving policy legislation to enable us to keep prices down and provide service more efficiently and reliably.

Senator Shirley Winsley has been extremely helpful in serving Lakewood Water District's customers. When we were having difficulties getting state approval to proceed with our new reservoir, it was a phone call by Sen. Winsley that broke the logjam and got the project going again. The same thing happened when we ran into red tape delaying a new water main to serve Oakbrook and Steilacoom. This year, a last minute amendment to a plumbing bill slipped through before people realized it would have made it virtually impossible for local utilities to protect water supplies from the hazards of residential contamination. Sen. Winsley acted quickly and forcefully to secure the Governor's assistance in successfully striking the offending language

from the law. Your Board of Commissioners has recognized Sen. Winsley as our Legislator of the Year.

We are also happy to report that Governor Gary Locke has agreed to put a stop to regulatory action that would have put our community's existing water rights at risk. Thank you to all of the many Lakewood Water customers who called, wrote, or emailed the Governor.

From Your Commissioners

Automatic Bill Payment:



The Lakewood Water District is proud to now offer 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 if you are interested in this program, as we have forms available for your convenience to initiate the process. It is a fast and convenient way to pay your water bill.

Superintendent's Report



Budd Greco

The Lakewood Water District's next Replacement & Renovation (R&R) project will take place starting July 2001. This job was let out to public bid and S&W Utility Contractors will perform the work. Their bid came in at \$314,698. The Wildaire R&R project will include Brook Lane, Mills Drive, Barlow Lane, Wildaire Road and Ponce de Leon. We also are starting design work on the 111th Street R&R project which will include Meadow

Road between Wildaire and 111th Street and 111th Street between Meadow and Gravelly Lake Drive. Also, Glen Echo and Lake Avenue may be added to this job. Terry Lake Road will also see improvements, as we will be replacing an outdated 2-inch dead-end water line with a new 8-inch ductile iron main with two new hydrants. We will tie in 117th Street Court and 116th Street. This will eliminate three dead-end water mains and provide a looped system to ensure better fire flow and water quality to the area.

In The Spotlight



Bonnie Kelly joined the District in 1999 and serves as Assistant to the Manager. Her duties include attending board meetings, working with the cross connection department, tracking small works projects, payroll and learning procedures for the new electronic funds transfer system. Bonnie grew up in Spanaway, graduating from Bethel High School, and previously worked for an attorney. Away from the office she's the busy mother of an active 8-year old son, Willie. She enjoys attending her son's baseball games, scrapbooking, crafts and decorating.



Sharon Kennedy joined the District last year as an Accounting Assistant focusing on accounts payable, general ledger, inventory and work orders. Sharon was raised in Hawaii and worked for several different companies, including a shipping company, before moving here in 1996. She says she enjoys getting out in the sun, when it's "available." Sharon is the mother of three adult children, Bradley, Bryan and Dayna, one grandson, Drake, and one adorable cat named Callie.

2000 Water Quality & Annual Business Report

In late June, the District distributed its third Water Quality and Annual Business Report. Included are an overview from the Board of Commissioners, information on current resources, supply, service, facilities and financial statements. The CCR (Consumer Confidence Report) covers aspects of our water quality, testing, and treatment. For information, call Paul Calta at 253-588-4423.

Our Water Supply

We have received inquiries as to the effects of the recent "drought" conditions on our water supply. The source of our water is subsurface aquifers reached by our thirty-one wells at depths ranging from 150 to over 1,000 feet. These aquifers are fed primarily by rainfall and melting snow. The less-than-normal rainfall and low level of mountain snow pack are having some negative effects on surface water supplies. Most groundwater wells are normal, but there are a few purveyors who are concerned with some of their well levels.

Currently, the District's water levels are about normal, however, we will not be able to assess the extent of the loss of recharged water, if any, for approximately six months, that being the time for any reduced flow to affect us. We do not anticipate water shortages, however, we urge you all to look at ways to use water wisely now, so that you will be better able to deal with any possible future restrictions. If you would like information on water wise usage, please contact our office at 253-588-4423.

WATER WISE USAGE TIPS

Aerate your lawn – drought or not, aeration is good for your lawn because it helps grass roots grow more deeply and gives air to soil organisms that break down thatch. Be sure to utilize an aerator that pulls 3" deep plugs or an aerator that lifts or cuts into the soil rather than compacts it.

Use less fertilizer – especially in a drought year, lower fertility means less active growth of lawns and other plantings. Less growth ultimately means plants and lawns demand less water.

Water wisely – whether or not you have an irrigation system it makes \$en\$e to water wisely. This means watering in early morning or evening, and only the amount that your lawn or landscape needs.

Remember an inch per week of water is all your lawn needs. We offer free rain/watering gauges at our office.

Ground covering plants – consider using ground covering plants as a viable living mulch. There are hundreds that are water-thrifty, attractive, competitive and low maintenance. Once established, these ground covers eliminate the need for additions of mulch and usually do a good job of out-competing weeds.

Time your plantings – if you were thinking about installing new plants or exchanging your lawn for low water plantings, remember that new lawns and plantings require more water than established plantings. Fall is a great time to make these changes instead.

Keep your irrigation system in good repair – fix leaks and adjust the sprinkler heads to eliminate overspray onto paved areas or buildings. Investigate any source of unusual runoff or puddling.

We will speak to your group – call Paul Calta at 588-4423 to schedule an appointment to speak to your group about water wise usage and protecting our water supply.

Website:



For those of you with Internet access, look for us at: www.lakewood-water-dist.org. You'll find a variety of information on important water topics. We look forward to seeing you in cyberspace and hope you will give us feedback on how we are doing.

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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

