

The Pipeline



Issue 22

Keeping Lakewood Water District Customers Informed

Fall, 2000

"SERVING THIS COMMUNITY SINCE 1943"

Commissioners' Comments

In January, the State Legislature will once again be in session. We expect that during the course of the session, some very important bills dealing with water rights and public water systems will be considered by the legislators. Some of the proposals are sound and well thought out. Some are not. We are going to be there, fighting to protect our ability to serve you, our customers.

Because we are a public agency, you aren't just a customer, you own the utility system. You own all the many facilities we have built over the years to give you the best service possible. You paid for it, and we want to make sure you get your money's worth. We also work hard to live within our mission statement: "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."

There are proposals out there that would limit or curtail our ability to serve our community and customers. There are proposals that would dramatically increase the cost of water service. There are proposals that have been made in the interest of "public safety" to treat water for chemicals which are barely even detectable in the water. The National Institutes of Health have declared this approach to be "ridiculous in the extreme." However ridiculous it is, Lakewood Water District still has to deal with it.

So, what's our point? We've been down this road before, when the Federal Government ordered us to start adding chlorine to our water, even though it was consistently passing all safety inspections. That experience taught us a lesson; we need to have more involvement in these issues and do so earlier in the process. Members of Lakewood Water's management team and Board of Commissioners have been attending meetings on these issues. Don't be surprised if we ask you to call or write to your federal and state representatives. This time around, when some questionable proposals look like they have a good chance of passing into law, we'll be contacting you for help.

Keep an eye on this space. We will make every effort to keep you informed and involved in the process. After all, you aren't just a Lakewood Water customer, you own the Lakewood Water District.

From Your Commissioners

Superintendent's Report



As noted in the last issue of PIPELINE, the Brook Lane R&R project was slated to begin work in the fall of 2000. However, this project has now been moved back a few months, with work slated to begin in January 2001.

The pressure zone upgrades for the Glenwood Acres/Deepwood areas are progressing. Lakewood Water District has installed 1,700 feet of 12" water main on 104th Street between Hipkins and Butte Drive. Pressure increases can be expected later this fall for approximately 150 residences. **These customers will receive a letter** with a more precise date as to when the increase in p.s.i.(pounds per sq. inch) will take place.

The District has also finished water main improvements to the new Lowe's Home Improvement Store on 100th Street and to the new Union 76 service station at Farwest and Steilacoom Boulevard.

McChord AFB contracted with the District to install 9 new water services to homes that originally had their own private wells in the McChord Gate/Springbrook area. Also, 600 feet of 8" water main was installed with one new fire hydrant on Addison Street at 127th St. This main was needed to supply the new water services. McChord AFB paid for these costs.

Rate Increase Reminder

The Board of Commissioners reviewed the financial needs of the District in 1999 and found it necessary to enact a modest rate increase in a two-step process. The first increase of 5.2% was effective on 12/1/99. The second step increase of 5.2% will take effect beginning 12/1/00. We hope to make the impact on your family budget as small as possible.

Minimum Rate 800 cu. ft

1999 Rate = \$10.94 2000 Rate = \$11.51

Over 800 cu.ft. to 2000 cu.ft.

1999 = 56¢/100 cu. ft. 2000 = 59¢/100 cu.ft.

Over 2000 cu. ft.

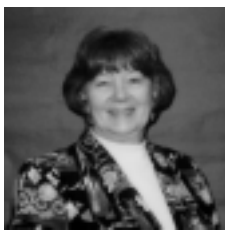
1999 = 75¢/100 cu. ft. 2000 = 79¢/100 cu. ft.

In The Spotlight

Andre Ward has been a water service worker with the District since February 1998. Andre's duties include meter repair, service on/off's and hydrant/valve maintenance. He enjoys meeting customers and likes the opportunity to work outdoors. Andre grew up in this area, graduating from Clover Park High School. When he's not at work, you'll find him running, lifting weights, coaching basketball and spending time with his wife, Irma, and their three children.

Don Stanley is a water worker and back-up meter reader. He joined the District in 1998 and says the favorite part of his job is helping customers with a variety of questions. Don grew up in the Puyallup area, graduating from Orting High School. He just got married in July to his lovely wife, Rocquel. Favorite activities Don and his bride enjoy include eating out, hiking and camping.

In Memory of Dorothy J. Ashby



We are sad to report that former long-time employee, Dorothy Ashby, passed away on September 18, 2000. Dorothy served Lakewood Water District and its customers for over 12 years as Office Manager, until her retirement in April 2000.

Dorothy's co-workers at the District, as well as her many friends within the community, will miss her greatly. Her devotion to her fellow employees and the community we serve set an exceptional standard for all of us to follow for years to come.

Cross Connection

Did you know your lawn irrigation system could be hazardous to your health?

Cross connection/backflow incidents occur when water in irrigation systems becomes contaminated with fertilizer, microorganisms, fecal matter or dirt. A properly working backflow assembly will prevent water from an irrigation system from traveling into your home or back into our water system.

Irrigation systems and backflow assemblies should be tested annually. Many of you are already part of our program. We will be contacting other existing systems in the near future to comply with state law WAC 246-290-490 which requires annual testing.

All customers installing a lawn irrigation system are required to have a backflow assembly. Call us for information. If you are having a contractor do the work, make sure they are also installing an approved backflow assembly. New systems require a \$30.00 permit (which can be obtained at the Lakewood Water District office) and a visual inspection/test of the installed backflow assembly. It is each customer's responsibility to make sure the permit is obtained and the test is completed upon installation. A list of approved testers will be provided at the time a permit is issued.

Besides lawn irrigation systems, other potential problem cross connections include boilers, fire systems, swimming pools and post-mix soda dispensers (the machines that dispense fountain drinks and water in many restaurants and fast-food establishments). These "soda machines" are considered a high hazard, so it's prudent to ask the establishment if their machine includes a backflow assembly.

Currently, there are over 3,200 backflow assemblies protecting Lakewood Water District, but we all need to do our part. If you have any questions or concerns about cross connections, please contact Paul Calta at 253-588-4423.



New Wellhead Signs

Look for our neighborhood wellhead protection signs. These signs are tailored for specific neighborhoods, to remind customers their drinking water comes from water tables and aquifers in the ground beneath them. Any substances that enter the ground or storm drains can eventually reach the water tables, and potentially affect the quality of our drinking water.

Please call us for more information on safeguarding our high quality water resource.

Web Site Update

Oops, as many of you with computers know, sometimes there are technical problems with setting up systems and online programs. We advertised our Web site as being available in August, but due to some unforeseen technical glitches, the new release date is now October 20, 2000. We apologize for the delay and hope that you will look for us at www.lakewood-water-dist.org.

We will endeavor to answer your questions and tell you about the projects we are working on.

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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

