

Lakehurst Defers On-Line Bill Payment Program

Lakehurst's Board of Directors elected to put on hold the implementation of any District funded program that would allow customers to pay their bills electronically. The cost of any District funded program, especially with an undetermined quantity of customer participation, does not justify implementation of a program at this time. The Board decided, however, to execute a customer survey in 2007 to assess more accurately the level of interest among District customers. The District does not discourage and will always allow customers to arrange with their banks the electronic payment of the water and sewer bill.

In an emergency call the District office 24 hours a day at 303-985-7895. Calls received outside normal working hours will be answered by the District's answering service and the information will be directed to on call service personnel for assistance.

LAKEHURST WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICT

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bulletin

Slight Increase to District Water and Sewer Rates for 2007

The Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors approved the 2007 Budget and adopted new water and sewer rates effective January 1, 2007. The Board's action was in response to an 8.19% increase in water rates from Denver Water as well as increases resulting from utilities and overall cost of services. Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District assesses no mill levy to its property owners and relies on water rates for revenue. These revenues are used to purchase water and offset the operation and maintenance expenses for over 76 miles of various-size water mains and replacing the aging water system. Even though water rates from Denver increased 8.19%, the Lakehurst Board, through prudent financial management practices, will only increase rates by approximately 2% overall. The rate increase will affect all District commercial and residential customers. The charge for water usage will increase from \$2.95 per thousand gallons to \$3.00 for each thousand gallons of water used. The monthly base charge will remain the same at \$5.00/SFE/month. The monthly base charge covers

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the on-going costs to maintain and replace customer's water meters as needed.

There will also be a slight increase to the monthly sewer fees for 2007. The monthly flat fee will change from \$14.50 to \$14.65 per month, a mere 1%. The increase is needed to offset a rate increase from Metro Wastewater for treatment services. It will also cover increased costs to the District for the continued operation and maintenance of over 66 miles of various-size sewer mains.

Additional information regarding the rate increases or other water or sewer related topics can be obtained from the Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District office at (303) 985-7895.

District Completes Water Meter Replacement Project under Budget

The Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District Board of Directors approved an accelerated schedule to its water meter replacement project in 2006. There were approximately 2,800 Electronic Radio Transmitters (ERTs) remaining to be installed at the beginning of the year. District Staff worked hard to complete the project under budget and well before the target deadline.

These meters are equipped with state of the art ERT technology that allows meter readers to obtain meter readings by use of radio read handheld units. The computerized handheld units are programmed with meter information and will directly capture the meter reading without the meter pit being accessed. This advance allows the meters to be read more than three times as fast while virtually eliminating misreads. Completing this project was the first step towards monthly, full District billings for all of its residential and commercial users. If you have any questions regarding the water meter replacement project contact the Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District office at 303-985-7895.

Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District to begin Monthly Water and Sewer Billings

Lakehurst Water and Sanitation District customers will be receiving a monthly water and sewer bill beginning in January 2007. In the past, most residential customers of the District received bills on a bi-monthly basis. Changing from bi-monthly to monthly billings will create a more consistent means of tracking water consumption and, in turn, decrease the chances of customers "overlooking" a bill that has been sitting around for two months. Most water utilities have turned to monthly billing as a way to mitigate high water bills for its customers.

Cold Weather Tips

The same conditions that trigger cold-weather water main breaks in Lakehurst's underground system can cause pipes to burst in your own household or business plumbing. Here are a few tips to avoid costly damage.

- Know the location of your water shut-off valve and test it regularly for proper operation.
- Turn off and drain automatic and manual irrigation systems before first freeze.
- Turn off outdoor faucets and disconnect hoses from them.
- Winterize unheated or vacant buildings
- Insulate water pipes that may be vulnerable to the cold or have caused problems in the past.