

# VADER-ENCHANTED VALLEY WATER SYSTEM NEWSLETTER



Lewis County Public Works, 2025 NE Kresky Ave, Chehalis, WA 98532  
Lewis County Fiscal Billing Office, Lewis County Courthouse, 351 NW North St, Chehalis, WA 98532  
Office Hours: 8:30 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday  
Web address: [www.lewiscountywa.gov](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov) or call 1-855-858-2843

## Summer 2012 Construction

Lewis County is committed to providing safe and reliable drinking water to our customers. To meet this commitment, the distribution system improvement project will replace old water mains, install new water meters, and construct hydrants. Construction will begin this summer.

The new mains will replace the old brittle lines that are prone to line breaks. When line breaks occur there is a potential risk of contaminants to enter the system and boil water advisories are issued when the system is compromised.

About 80 new service connections and water meters will be constructed from the new water main to the customer line. To provide additional protection to the water system, a customer shutoff valve and box will be installed after the new water meter. This customer valve will allow homeowners to temporarily turn water off to fix a leak or do home repairs without contacting the Utility to turn water off at our meter box.

With limited construction funding, we had to prioritize the new construction. Locations were identified based on prior history of line breaks, age of the main, number of connections served by the main and improved system efficiency. One efficiency element is to construct loops whenever possible. The project will connect E and F Streets at Park Rd, and connect Enchanted Valley with Vader to improve overall system pressure.

Some of the targeted areas are: B St from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>; B St Alley from 7<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>; A St from 6<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>; 5<sup>th</sup> St from A to B; B St from 6<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>; 9<sup>th</sup> St from B to C; C St from 7<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>; E St Alley from 7<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>; and E St from 10<sup>th</sup> to Park Rd. A map of the proposed construction will be on the county WEBSITE soon.

The project was awarded to I & E Construction, Inc. located in Clackamas, Oregon last month. Once the contract is executed we will be scheduling an informational meeting to introduce you to the construction team, project schedule and contact information. Some traffic detours will occur and we ask for your patience during construction.

Notification of this meeting will be by mailings and community postings.



*Lewis County Area 3 Technician/WTPO Fred Terry working on the repair at 528 6<sup>th</sup> St on the evening of May 19, 2012.*

## Water Facts

- Three-quarters of the Earth's surface is covered with water, yet 98 percent is salt water and not fit for consumption.
- Less than one percent of all the water on Earth is freshwater available for human consumption.
- The human body is more than 60 percent water. Blood is 92 percent water, the brain and muscles are 75 percent water, and bones are about 22 percent water.
- A human can survive for a month or more without eating food, but only a week or so without drinking water.
- 3.9 trillion gallons of water are consumed in the USA per month. (AWWA Journal, June 2006)
- An estimated 2.4 billion people lack adequate sanitation and 1.1 billion people are without access to safe water. (WHO-UNICEF, 2004)
- 90 percent of wastewater in developing countries is discharged into rivers and streams without any treatment. (UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, and the World Resources Institute, "World Resources 2000-2001," pg. 25-26)
- There are 1.6 million deaths per year attributed to dirty water and poor sanitation (World Watch; World Health Organization)
- In the past ten years, diarrhea related to unsanitary water has killed more children than all the people lost to armed conflict since WWII. (WSSCC, 2004)
- At any one time, it is estimated that half the world's hospital beds are occupied with patients suffering from waterborne diseases. (WSSCC, 2004)

## Deluge of Repairs

### By Who's Counting?

We had several line breaks since our last newsletter in October 2011. Due to prompt reports by our customers and speedy responses by our field personnel, we were able to make the repairs without issuing a boil water advisory. Our earlier work to exercise and identify valves helped tremendously to shorten repair time. Here's a list of our repairs since our last newsletter in October 2011.

- December 2011 – 6" AC water main break on B Street between 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> St.
- March 26, 2012 – 2" service line break on C Street Alley south of 10<sup>th</sup> St.
- March 31, 2012 – 6" AC water main break on B Street south of 7<sup>th</sup> St.
- April 4, 2012 – 1" service connection at 1025 C St.
- May 9, 2012 – riser on 2" service line broken by lawn mower on D Street south of 10<sup>th</sup> St.
- May 19, 2012 – 1" service connection at 528 6<sup>th</sup> St.

Register your telephone number and email at <http://lewiscountywa.gov/code-red>. If you do not have Internet access, then call 360-740-1152 to register.



*Lewis County Area 3 Technician/WTPO Fred Terry repairing the broken service connection for 528 6<sup>th</sup> St on May 19, 2012.*

## Responsibility Commitments

Water systems must send in annual reports about the water quality and efficiency of their water system by July 1. Our report for 2011 is enclosed with this newsletter and it is also available online at the Lewis County WEBSITE, [www.lewiscountywa.gov](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov).

The large water system loss was a problem under the City of Vader's management, and it continues under our watch. This loss affects our customers as the Utility incurs costs for treating, storing and conveying potable water. When Lewis County was appointed receiver of the water system in October 2011 it came with the responsibilities to provide our customers with safe potable water in an efficient and equitable manner. We have mapped the system, flushed lines, operated valves, fixed known problems, established operational and payment policies, cleared and maintained Plant facilities, dealt with State compliance issues, installed and replaced meters, and managed the upcoming capital improvement project. This year's construction to replace mains and associated service connections will help reduce water loss.

Legally, the water Utility must pay for itself. Lewis County continues to track revenue losses by setting payment policies, pursuing delinquent accounts, and looking for opportunities to reduce operational costs. As another effort to stem revenue loss, the payment terms of the City's existing loan for the 2002 Plant improvements were re-negotiated with the State. The first loan payment from the Utility will be this year.

As mentioned in our newsletter of October 2011, Superior Court approved Lewis County's and the City of Vader's proposal to transfer the assets of the water system at the end of the receivership. The details of the transfer will be embodied in the Disposition Plan. The hearing to consider the Disposition Plan was held on September 23, 2011 with the Superior Court judge stating that the water right should go with the water system as it is transferred to Lewis County.

The County, City mayor and their attorneys have met several times since then to negotiate terms of the transfer and to address issues such as: existing and future approvals of new development within city limits, use of non-water utility facilities by the City without compromising Utility operations, and the procedures for potential return of the system. The Disposition Plan must be developed and presented to Superior Court for a final hearing at the end of 2012 or early 2013.

Lewis County invites comments and concerns that our customers may have about the transfer of ownership. Please send or email written comments to us (use the "Contact Us" link at [www.lewiscountywa.gov](http://www.lewiscountywa.gov)).