

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/publicworks/utility-services or call 1-855-858-2843

Congratulations! It's a Baby...

The long awaited arrival has occurred! As of April 30, 2014 the Vader-Enchanted Valley water system is owned and managed by Lewis County.

How will this affect our customers? We hope it is barely a ripple. There will be no change in our operations of the system. We will continue to share information with the City of Vader and collect the utility tax for the City. The utility tax applies to utility customers within the city boundaries. There will be no change in the billing cycle and rates. However, the water bills will be formatted differently starting in August 2014 (see the "New Look, Same Service" story about the water bills) and we will discontinue use of our post office box.

As the owner of your baby bouncing water system, we intend to do a lot of planning for its future. As always, we appreciate your support.

NATIONAL DRINKING WATER WEEK

Was observed May 4 to 10 this year. This observance is sponsored each year by the American Water Works Association and other agencies to recognize the importance of drinking water and to acknowledge the roles of water regulatory agencies, organizations and utilities to provide safe drinking water to their customers.

Water is the foundation for life. We use it every day for domestic, industrial, agricultural, medical and recreational needs. Access to public water sources that are safe and reliable is crucial for the health and prosperity of a society.

Many improvements in the health, prosperity and longevity of the U.S. population are due to improved water quality. Water treatment and disinfection have made U.S. tap water one of the safest drinking water supplies in the world. Disinfection has led to a dramatic decrease of cases of waterborne illnesses and death. For example, in 1900 there were about 100 cases of typhoid fever for every 100,000 persons living in the U.S. With disinfection of public water sources, the cases of typhoid fever dropped to less than 1 per 100,000 by 1960.

Although National Drinking Water Week has passed, we hope you will take moments in your day to appreciate safe drinking water. Let's raise a glass of our drinking water for a celebratory toast. *Bottoms up!* by Lady Clearwater

Thanks a Million!

First, we want to thank our customers that responded to our survey about household size and income conducted by Scott Pollock of Arrowhead Engineering. **THANK YOU!** A minimal number of responses were needed in order to validate the survey. Scott got a fair number of mailed responses which was supplemented with telephone and door-to-door calls. This was done pretty readily without loss of life and limb. (Thanks because we like Scott in one piece.) We want to reiterate that all responses will be confidential and used only for the purposes of the water utility.

Current income estimates of residents in our service area are needed as part of the funding application. With the completion of the survey in early April, we aim to submit a grant application in early June for an additional water tank. We are not contemplating applying for any additional loans at this point. We will have customer meetings prior to applying for any funding that may affect water rates.

Another tank is needed and has been identified in the utility's water system plan (WSP). The WSP is a required document by the State Dept of Health which is used as a business plan for public utilities. Our existing 250,000-gallon tank was built in 1979 and has foregone years of maintenance. The project will provide the following benefits:

- Uninterrupted service when the existing tank can be recoated.
- Additional storage.
- Cost efficiencies by updating components and processes.

There are other capital water system improvements in the WSP and we will continue to look for funding opportunities. With a current estimate of household sizes and incomes in our service area, we can now readily complete funding applications.

Start a vegetable garden and can your garden harvest!

For ideas and tips on getting started, check out the Lewis County Extension Office located next to our Fiscal Office in the Lewis County Courthouse or go to <http://county.wsu.edu/lewis/Pages/default.aspx>.



Enquiring minds want to know, how much water is lost through water leaks?

A lot as quantified by the tabulation provided from Thurston County Public Utility District No. 1! The value of the lost water volume is based on our usage rate of \$6.50/1000 gallons. While this table is specific to Thurston County and our water loss would be different, this shows that small leaks add up to significant amounts. And enquiring minds could have a fistful of dollars!

ASK TIM

By Boss Tim

LEAK SIZE	LOST WATER VOLUME					
	DAILY		BILLING PERIOD (2-MONTH)		ANNUAL	
Drip	15 gallons	\$0.10	900 gallons	\$5.85	5,475 gallons	\$36
1/32"	264	\$1.72	15,840	\$103	96,360	\$626
1/16"	943	\$6.13	56,580	\$368	344,195	\$2,237
1/8"	3,806	\$25	228,360	\$1,484	1,389,190	\$9,030
1/4"	15,226	\$99	913,560	\$5,938	5,557,490	\$36,124
1/2"	60,900	\$396	3,654,000	\$23,751	22,228,500	\$144,485

What are some upcoming projects?

- Replacing all customer service meters by this year. Meter accuracy degrades over time so a 10-to-15 year replacement cycle is recommended.
- Submitting a new Water System Plan (WSP) to WSDOH this summer. The current plan is dated May 2008 and water system plans must be updated every six years. A draft WSP is underway.

NEW LOOK, SAME SERVICE

Starting this August, your water bill will have a new look. When we started managing the system in October 2010, Lewis County inherited the billing software system that was used by the City of Vader. Our Fiscal Division learned this system and managed to cajole the system to produce those lovely billing statements every two months. When we learned that the company no longer provides technical updates and support, it was time to change.

This change will streamline and simplify our billing process. We can print bills using standard sized paper and envelopes on our current printer thus eliminating the need for specialized stationary and printer. We will be able to run reports readily without having to manually export data into another system. Best of all, we hope to show current and past water usages in your bill. This is a feature that will help us find water leaks by showing unusual water usages.

The envelope for the new formatted water bills will have the Lewis County logo.



Vader-Enchanted Valley Water System

Historic Courthouse, RM 030
351 NW North Street
Chehalis, WA 98532

VADER-ENCHANTED VALLEY WATER BILL

Another change mentioned in our story "Congrats! It's a Baby..." is that we will be closing our Post Office Box this fall so please remit payment directly to the Fiscal Division located in the Lewis County Courthouse. Our contact numbers remain the same and we hope to have cards/magnets enclosed in the August 2014 billing for each customer.