



# the **Lakeview Light**

lakeviewlight.com

The Newsletter of Lakeview Light & Power

Winter 2011

#### In this issue:

- Possible LLP Rate Increase
- Storm Report
- New Employee, Ryan Merkle
- Scholarship Deadline
- Annual Meeting New Location
- Lucky Numbers  
and more...

18596-003

## **LLP's Rates May Go Up This Fall ~ BPA Announces 11 Percent Rate Increase**

In December, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) announced a proposal to increase wholesale power rates by approximately 11 percent.

The increase would help maintain and refurbish the hydro system. Specifically, BPA mentioned major maintenance and upgrades to aging components such as turbines and cranes that are beyond their planned design life, and repairs at Columbia Generating Station, the region's only nuclear plant.

Improvements at dams and habitat restoration to protect Northwest salmon and steelhead are also factors.

The rate increase would take effect Oct. 1, 2011 and would be passed on to all BPA customers, including Lakeview Light.

### **Introducing Ryan Merkle, New Lineman's Helper**

We're pleased to introduce our newest employee, Lineman's Helper, Ryan Merkle.

Ryan was inspired by his brother who works for an electric utility in California.

"When I heard about his work and opportunities, I decided to go to Line School, too," he said.

After graduation, Ryan worked for several years for Mid-Plains Power in Grand Island, Nebraska before moving to Puyallup. "When I moved out here, I applied for a job at LLP," he said. He has been with us since last June.

When he's not helping the line crew, Ryan loves

LLP has been able to absorb BPA's recent increases because of the success of our White Creek wind project. But 2010 brought unprecedented economic conditions that affected our members and gave us financial challenges.

"It's been eight years since we raised our rates, and at this point, we hope we can avoid an increase," said Pres. Paul Russell. "But if we need to raise our rates to keep up with all the extra expenses and an economy that has dropped our income unexpectedly below our budget,

then we must do so."

It's important to remember that LLP's rates are among the lowest in the region. Tacoma Power rates are more than 20 percent higher than ours. Puget Sound Energy's rates are more than 50 percent higher – and both of those utilities have additional rate increases in the works already.

We hope the economy gets back to normal very soon and that our income returns to a more predictable amount. We will keep you advised as we move forward.



Please say hello to Ryan when you see him and welcome him to our LLP family.

#### *Holiday Closures*

Our office will be closed the following dates:  
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – Jan. 17;  
Presidents' Day – Feb. 21

## Storm Season ~ La Niña Could Mean a Hard Winter...

Lakeview Light fared very well in the storms we've had recently.

During the pre-Thanksgiving storm, which brought high winds, snow and freezing temperatures, we lost only one circuit for a couple of hours. That was caused by branches on one of our power lines.

Our tree-trimming program, plus the fact that 61 percent of our system is underground, protects our customers from most power outages.

But winter has just begun, and forecasts indicate that this could be an unusually hard winter with more wind, rain and colder-than-normal conditions because of the phenomenon known as La Niña.

We urge you to be prepared for any emergency by keeping an adequate supply of food, water, flashlights and batteries, blankets and other supplies on hand. Having a properly-maintained and connected generator is also helpful.

It's easier to cope with any situation when you're prepared.

18880-001

## Call for Board Candidates ~ Annual Meeting at New Location

The 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Lakeview Light and Power will be held Tuesday, Mar. 15, 2011 at 7 pm at Clover Park Technical College, 4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW. Board Member Tom McDonald and Treasurer Bob Schibig are up for re-election.

If you're interested in being a candidate for the LLP Board of Directors, you must notify the Secretary in writing by 5 pm Friday, Feb. 5, 2011.

Pursuant to our By-Laws, if there are no other candidates, we will not hold an election.

### • ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS • Scholarship Applications are Due January 28

Any senior who is the child of an LLP member or customer can apply for one of our \$1,500 scholarships.

Application forms are available in our office or from your school's counselor and are due in our office by 5 pm, Jan. 28.

### Project Help

Many LLP customers are struggling to make ends meet. Winter is an especially difficult time, with higher bills for heating and lighting. And the colder weather that's predicted could make things even tougher.



Project Help provides relief for many of those customers by helping them pay their power bills.

Donations have been very low, with more and more people feeling the economic pinch. Through Dec. 1 we received only \$3,990.65 in donations. Quite frankly, that won't carry us through the winter.

Please consider making a contribution to this important program. Just fill in the box on your enclosed statement. LLP doubles every donation, so even the smallest gift increases three-fold.

*We thank you for your help!*

63059-004

## LLP Generosity Brightens Holidays for Needy Families

LLP employees and our Board of Directors made the holidays a little brighter for four local families.

Our staff collected more than \$900 and put together food and gift packages for families identified through Clover Park Technical College's Holiday House program.

The recipients were all full-time CPTC students with children, and in need of financial assistance.

"They made wish lists and wrote down their kids' ages, sizes and wishes – like a baby doll with hair, crayons or a basketball," said our bookkeeper Derise Warner. "We also bought pajamas, gift cards, games and food for a holiday dinner. We really had a good time shopping and putting everything together."

The staff also created 'family movie night' baskets filled with popcorn and snacks and an assortment of movies.

"We didn't meet the families we were shopping for; we just bought the things that were on their lists," she said. "I'm not sure if they even knew the things were from us. But it's amazing what we can do when we work together to help others. It was great fun."

### Find Your Account Number, Win \$20

In each issue of *The Lakeview Light*, we hide five randomly chosen account numbers (like 12345-678).

If you find yours, call us at 584-6060 before the next edition is published and you'll receive a \$20 credit on your next bill.

Jewell Day was our Autumn Winner.

*Good luck!*

*the*  
**Lakeview**  
**Light** is written and  
designed by **Sunburst Studios**

Please send comments or  
story ideas to:

**Lakeview Light & Power**  
11509 Bridgeport Way SW  
Lakewood, WA 98499-3041

or email: [LLP@lakeviewlight.com](mailto:LLP@lakeviewlight.com)



"Looking to the Future Since 1922"

120453-001