



the Lakeview Light

- In this issue:
- General Manager Explains Rate Increase
 - Free Duct-Sealing Program
 - Meet Kelly Butts
 - Lucky Numbers and more...

lakeviewlight.com

The Newsletter of Lakeview Light & Power

Summer, 2014

126264-001

General Manager's Corner ~ Basic Service Charge Increase Explained

On May 1, Lakeview Light & Power increased the Basic Service charge to our Residential and Commercial customers.

In the short time I have been at LLP, this has been the item I have most often been asked about. Here are some basic questions and answers about the Basic Service charge.

What is the Basic Service charge? The Basic Service charge is designed to cover the metering, billing and other fixed costs that LLP incurs whether the customer uses any electricity or not. LLP has made a substantial investment in materials and equipment so that we can provide reliable service to each of our customers and we plan to continue to invest in technology and equipment that will allow us to provide the high level of reliability you expect of us.

Why did the charge increase so much? The Basic Service charge has increased by \$1 since 2003. During that time we have seen significant increases in our fixed costs.

How does LLP's Basic Service charge compare to what other local utilities charge? Residential and Commercial charges vary widely between utilities. The table below shows what customers at other local utilities pay.

In many parts of the country, including Washington, we are seeing Basic Service charges in the \$30-\$40 range for residential customers.

Do you anticipate raising the Basic Service charge again? The Board and Management will regularly review the rates to make sure we are collecting enough revenue to keep LLP financially sound. At the same time we are scrutinizing our

costs to be sure we are delivering the best service possible at the lowest possible rates. Bonneville Power Administration, our wholesale power supplier, has announced it will raise rates in October 2015. LLP will look at our rates, including the Basic Service charge, after the BPA.

What about the Commercial Rates? We are also reviewing how we charge our commercial customers. Right now LLP has only a single commercial rate, meaning that a small "Mom & Pop" business pays the same rate as a large industrial customer. We are considering dividing the commercial class into two or more classes that are based on the

Holiday Closures
Our office will be closed the following dates:
Labor Day – Sept. 1 and
Columbus Day – Oct. 13

amount of power the business consumes. Some commercial rates, including the Basic Charge, will change. We will provide more information in the coming months.

What if I have more than one meter? The Basic Service charge applies to each meter on an account. If you have more than one meter, you may want to explore your options to consolidate your electric service. We have found that frequently there is a meter that only serves a single outside light or a bank of lights. A certified electrician can discuss what you can do in your particular circumstances.

	Lakeview Light & Power	Elmhurst Mutual	Mason Co. PUD #3	Parkland Light & Water	Peninsula Light Co.	Puget Sound Energy	Tacoma Public Utilities
Residential	\$18.50	\$14.00	\$24.00	\$14.00	\$17.50	\$7.49	\$5.50
General Service	\$45.00	\$21.50	\$30.60	\$41.45	\$17.50	\$9.66	\$9.00
Small Commercial	\$45.00	\$25.50	\$39.00	\$83.00	\$34.00	\$51.67	\$46.00
Large Commercial	\$45.00	\$59.50	\$61.80	\$83.00	\$105.00	\$104.46	\$46.00

How LLP's Basic Service charge compares with other utilities.

Free Duct-Sealing Program Can Reduce Power Bills

If you have electric, forced-air heat you may be eligible for a new free program that can help you save money on your electric bills.

LLP has partnered with Ductz, a company that specializes in testing, cleaning and sealing duct-work in electrically heated homes. Cleaner, more efficient heating ducts can make your home more comfortable and can lower your heating bills.

In a typical home, it's estimated that 20- to 50 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly connected ducts.

A clean, properly functioning duct system can make your home more comfortable, increase energy efficiency, lower your heating bills and create a healthier, safer home environment. 61107-001

Customers who live in manufactured and mobile homes can especially benefit from this free program.

Ductz representatives are currently working in the Lakewood area. Their services include testing the duct system for leaks and, if the tests show measurable leakage, sealing them. Since this energy conservation program is underwritten by Bonneville Power Administration, there is no charge to LLP customers for these services.

Work must be completed by September 30, 2014. To schedule an appointment, call Ductz at 1-877-559-6070. For more information visit ductznorthwest.com.

Project Help

Even though summer has officially arrived, many LLP customers still have trouble making ends meet. Project Help provides assistance to qualified families by helping them pay their power bills. Through May 31, we've received \$1,221.94 in donations. LLP doubles every donation, bringing the fund balance to \$3,665.82 as of that date.

Please consider contributing to this important program. Just fill in the box on the enclosed statement.

Every donation helps. *We thank you!*



Meet Our New Apprentice Lineman ~ Kelly Butts Joins LLP



Kelly Butts, our new apprentice lineman, is a lifetime resident of Midland, Washington. He and his wife Amy have three children.

Before joining LLP, Kelly owned his own asphalt paving company for 15 years. "It always felt like it was a job, not a career," he said.

Working for someone else is "a big step," he added. "But I like challenges and learning new things, and the kind of work that linemen do has always intrigued

me. I'm really enjoying working for a well-established company. LLP really maintains their system well and they're so well-prepared."

Kelly also enjoys being part of a team and thinks his co-workers are "amazing people."

The fact that he has so many years experience in paving work is also a benefit. "I can help LLP with that, too," he said.

The Butts kids – Kevin, 17, Alyssa, 14 and four-year-old Kody – are all honor students and are involved in extra-curricular activities. "We all stay so busy that Amy and I feel like we're human taxi cabs." Kelly said with a smile. "My first priority in life is to be a good dad."

The family enjoys camping, fishing and boating together.

Please join us in welcoming Kelly to our LLP family.

Board of Directors Meetings

LLP members are welcome at the monthly meetings of our Board of Directors.

Upcoming board meetings are tentatively scheduled for July 22 and Aug. 14. Meetings are usually held at 1pm. If you would like to attend a Board meeting, please call our office a week before the meeting so we can confirm the date and time.

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 newsletter is published and you'll receive a \$20 credit on your next bill. Sandra Stombaugh, Jewell Day and Bobbie & Elmer Bozarh were winners last time.

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



75665-001