January 19, 2023

Dear Lakewood Homeowners,

A rate increase of twenty-five dollars per month is necessary for Lakewood Homeowners Inc. The increase is needed to ensure Lakewood Homeowners Inc. continues to be financially viable. The new rate will take effect on February 1, 2023, and will be billed on your February 2023 Statement.

Lakewood Homeowners Inc. has had a negative income of over thirty thousand dollars in both 2021 and 2022. These losses were a result of necessary improvements to our aging water and sewer systems, and increased labor costs. In 2022, Lakewood’s certified sewer manager resigned. Lakewood Homeowners Inc. has since hired Hiland Water to operate Lakewood’s water and sewer systems. The hiring of Hiland Water has come at a significant labor cost increase. Additionally, improvements have been made to the system to ensure Lakewood Homeowners Inc is in compliance with DEQ regulations. This rate increase is projected to bring Lakewood Homeowners Inc back to breakeven point. Additional rate revisions will be considered as needed in 2024.

Lakewood Homeowners, Inc. has consulted with the PUC. Lakewood Homeowners Inc. rates are not rate regulated by PUC. Since our community services fewer than 500 customers and is billed at a flat rate per month, the rate for unmetered service is under the required threshold for regulation by PUC. Our community’s rates even with the increase are still very competitive with others in the area.

Each Lakewood homeowner can do their part to reduce future maintenance to the sewer system by eliminating items that should not be flushed or put down your drain. These items include, but are not limited to, flushable wipes (they flush but do not decompose), floss, food items, grease, etc. By eliminating these items in our sewers, you are helping to reduce labor and additional maintenance caused by these items.

Sincerely,

Lakewood Homeowners Board of Directors