

The Pipeline

January/February 2007

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Vancouver, WA 98668

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Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday
8:00 am—5:00 pm
Closed Sat, Sun, &
Holidays

Emergency? Call us
@ 360-750-5876
24 hours per day/
7 days per week

Commissioners:

Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins

Manager:

Bob Bandarra

CRWWD Stats...
(Jan.-Nov. 2006)

- Processed 58,333 calls
- Connected approximately 5 homes to sewer per day
- 334 injury-free days in the field
- 52 new subdivisions
- 10 new commercial projects



Don't Dump Grease, Freeze It

"Put that cooking grease in a can and then in your freezer, not down the sink. That's a good way to protect your sewer line," said Don Young, the District's Pretreatment Coordinator. Dumping grease or any oily substance down your sink or toilet can cause you and the District problems. Eventually the grease solidifies in the pipes between your house and the main sewer line. "It's costly for homeowners to fix if the problem is on their side of the sewer line," said Young. "And the grease can also travel down the District's sewer line where it can congeal and block the sewer line causing overflows and backups."

To prevent grease clogs, the Clark Regional Wastewater District would like you to freeze your grease. Locally, Washington County, Portland and Gresham have had success with similar programs.

Ratepayers within the District can request a "freeze the grease kit." The District will supply your household with a lid fitting three different sizes of cans, a scraper and easy-to-follow instructions. You supply the cans, the grease and the freezer. Storing the frozen grease in a can lets you dispose of it easily by dropping it in your garbage.

Several areas in the District have had problems with grease, according to Young, especially around Hazel Dell Avenue and 68th Street; Hazel Dell Avenue and 110th Street; NW 7th Avenue and 96th Street; NE 106th Street and 9th Avenue; NE 102nd Avenue and 63rd Street; and NW 109th Street and 29th Avenue. These areas are program priorities, and kits will be delivered to the residents by District staff. Late last year, grease plugged a sewer main along 78th Street, which caused raw sewage to overflow into two bottom-floor apartments in Hazel Dell causing thousands of dollars damage and the loss of many personal items.

To pick up your "freeze the grease kit" come to the District office. But call first (993-8817) to make sure they are in stock. You can also start your own "freeze the grease" program by pouring cooking grease, bacon fat and other oily liquids into a can, freezing it and disposing of it on garbage pick-up day.

2007 Budget Approved— No Rate Increase

On December 12, the Board adopted the \$12,874,000 budget announcing **the 2007 rates will remain the same at \$34.00 per equivalent residential unit.** The budget includes administration, billing collection, maintenance of sewer collection and transmission line and pump stations. It also pays the debt on the Salmon Creek interceptor system, the Klineline force main system, pump stations and treatment plant improvements.

So where does your money go? **About 66% of your \$34 pays County treatment facility debt, County treatment plant operations and District replacement & restoration. Staffing costs consume about 24%. Supplies and other services consume 10%.**

Ratepayers can download a copy of the complete budget at www.crwwd.com.

Call Before You Dig

While digging, your shovel could hit an underground utility line. If you damage an underground utility, you could be charged for the repairs. **Remember to always call before you dig.** Washington law requires homeowners and excavators to notify utilities two business days before digging begins. Locating underground utility lines is **free.**



62 Year-Olds May Now Get Senior Rates

During their October 31 meeting, the District Board approved lowering the age for its low-income rate program from 65 years old to 62.

Besides age, qualification is based on home ownership and year-round residency. In addition, the ratepayer must meet the federal poverty income guideline, which is \$16,500 for a family of two and higher for larger families. Sixty-two year olds with incomes at or below that level can qualify for the \$25 a month rate. The monthly payment of \$34 dropped to \$30 for seniors with incomes between \$16,500 and \$25,000.

Seniors asking for this sewer rate reduction will need to present their Social Security statement, IRS 1040 form and photo identification (either a current or expired driver's license) at the District office every year to continue to receive the discount.

"Those not filing income taxes can ask the District for an IRS 4506-T Non-filing Form," said Tammy Clark, Finance Specialist. The IRS will need to complete this form, but won't process these non-filing forms during its peak tax season. The best time to give your form to the IRS is between June 15 and January 1. The District has arranged for the IRS to send this document directly to its office for you.

Seniors with questions, wanting proper forms or who need help applying for this reduction can contact Tammy Clark at 993-8808.