

The Pipeline

June 1, 2004

Fast Facts...

- We maintain over 425 miles of sewer pipe (this is a combination of gravity flowing mainlines and service connections) & 44 miles of pressure sewer mainlines
- We clean an average of 315,000 feet of pipe (59.66 miles) annually
- There are over 6,500 manholes, which are used for equipment access to maintain your sewer system

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What's Happening With the Budget and Your Sewer Rates?

Even though it's only April 2004, the Board of Commissioners and staff are starting to think about the 2005 budget process and review the current sewer rates to meet the expansion of the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

At the conclusion of the 2004 budget process, some of our customers asked that the notification process for budget workshops be published sooner. We will continue to advertise in *The Columbian* and on our website, and will also notify customers through this and subsequent newsletters. Further, we will provide a direct mailing to the Neighborhood Associations with the proposed budget schedule.

District Presentation Available to Neighborhood Associations

The Hazel Dell Sewer District Board of Commissioners and staff welcome the opportunity to meet with your Neighborhood Association to talk with you about your sewer district. While talking about the sewer district may not appear glitzy, we can assure you it will be informative as to why future monthly sewer rates will need to increase.

The first budget workshop with the Board of Commissioners will be the 5-year budget forecast on Tuesday, September 14, 2004 at 4:00 PM. In October we plan to have two workshops with the Board of Commissioners, the 12th at 4:00 PM and the 26th at 3:00 PM.

In November, we plan on having a Public Hearing on the 23rd at 5:00 PM. Your comments are always welcome at our workshops; the public hearing is the official date to receive customer testimony on the budget and proposed rates for 2005.

On December 14th at 4:00 PM, during their Board meeting, the Board's plan is

The County is currently in the process of expanding the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant. This next expansion will cost the current and future customers of the Hazel Dell Sewer District and City of Battle Ground approximately \$60 million dollars.

The presentation will take about 45 minutes with time



to adopt the budget and sewer rates for 2005. To request additional information concerning the budget process, please call Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or email at kthur@hdsd.com. We look forward to your participation and discussion of the budget and sewer rates for 2005.

for questions. To request a presentation, please call Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or email at kthur@hdsd.com. We look forward to meeting you and discussing your sewer district's past and future.

The Restaurant Fees Urban Myth

So have you heard the myth yet about why good sit down restaurants won't come to Hazel Dell? According to legend, it's because of those exorbitant fees to connect to the sewer. Recent Columbian news articles have tried to perpetuate that myth. Fortunately, the District was able to get the misstatements corrected (although the correction was not prominently displayed).

We are here to tell all of our customers that nothing could be further from the truth! We researched the costs for a restaurant to open in the Hazel Dell area and prepared a detailed cost matrix of all

the various fees and charges associated with a restaurant locating here.

As an example, a 120-seat restaurant would equal 10 single-family homes (1 ERU = 12 restaurant seats). So this restaurant would be charged \$18,980 (1 ERU = \$1,898) for the Hazel Dell sewer connection charge (General Facilities Charge). The County's Regional Facilities connection charge is \$4,077 per ERU so their fee would be an additional \$40,770. We found that the County's traffic impact fee is the major cost component. Depending on where in the District the restaurant is located, it can be as little as \$73,398 or as high as

\$137,445 (Salmon Creek area). We also found that the County's development fee increases the cost by as much as \$10,672 or as little as \$5,653. So now you know the facts. The next time someone says to you that good sit down restaurants don't come to Hazel Dell because of the Hazel Dell Sewer District fees—please correct them.

To request a copy of the restaurant matrix, please call or email Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or kthur@hdsd.com.

"Are you aware that the Hazel Dell Sewer District is a public owned utility? You, our customers, are that public."

Your Board of Commissioners Welcomes the Opportunity to Hear from You

Are you aware that the Hazel Dell Sewer District is a publicly owned utility? You, our customers, are that public. Your elected Board of Commissioners holds regular meetings on the second Tuesday of each month at 4:00 PM and the fourth Tuesday of each month at 3:00 PM.

The meetings are held at the District's Operations Center (located off of the Padden Parkway just east of St. Johns). These meetings are open to you, the public, and the Board welcomes your attendance and input on issues of importance to all our customers.

Information on specific agenda topics is available on the Friday before each meeting. Please call or email Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or kthur@hdsd.com for any Board related items.

Transfer of Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Under Review

On July 8, 2003, Hazel Dell Sewer District Board of Commissioners sent a letter to the Clark County Commissioners requesting transfer of ownership of the Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant (SCWTP) from Clark County to the Hazel Dell Sewer District. The District's customers have paid for virtually all of the costs of expansions at the plant, and the District continues to be active in the overall engineering and pretreatment processes for the plant. The District is pursuing this

consolidation in an effort to streamline the overall administrative effort required for the SCWTP. The District believes the cumulative effects of this action will result in lower costs and a simplified delivery of service for the sewer ratepayers.

County officials last year decided it would be the appropriate time to undertake a study to determine which of many alternatives made sense. The preliminary review completed in February of this year focused on three

alternatives: the SCWTP remaining under County ownership, District ownership or the creation of a new Regional Wastewater Authority.

The next step is for a consultant to evaluate the financial, technical and governance issues surrounding all three alternatives. The County expects that the study will be complete by the end of November 2004. We will update you when we learn more.

Salmon Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant Phase 4 Expansion Update

The District continues to work with its local clean water partners, Clark County and the City of Battle Ground, as we move forward with the Phase 4 Expansion of the County-owned wastewater facilities, known collectively as the Salmon Creek Wastewater Management System (SCWMS). There are many aspects to Phase 4 and we will be updating you regularly about areas that are key to the success of the program. One key area of interest is financing. The question “*How much will this cost?*” is often at the forefront of our concerns, so we will take time now for a financial review.

The District, the City and the County have been working hard to find the most reasonable financing available for Phase 4 expenses. The currently estimated cost is \$60 million. It is important to

note that taxes are not involved, and the costs are funded through connection fees and rates only. The County passes the expenses to its wholesale customers, the District and the City. We each pay our fair share of the costs, based on our share of treatment capacity owned, currently about 20% for the City and 80% for the District. We in turn pass the costs through to both new connections and existing customers, again in some form of equitable share. In keeping with the District’s “growth-pays-for-growth” philosophy, our goal is to assign new capacity costs to new development and charge existing customers for existing system improvements.

We understand that keeping rates as low as possible is very important to our customers. The District has obtained an \$11 million dollar loan at an interest

rate of ½%, and additional low cost financing is being pursued. We will continue to make sure that we are only constructing improvements that are needed, that we obtain the lowest-cost financing possible, and that the costs are shared fairly between current customers and new connections.

The Phase 4 Expansion benefits our entire area, and our clean water partnership is working for you. We want to make sure that our wastewater management system continues to meet the needs of our growing population while maintaining the health and livability of our community.



Is Your Plumbing Having a Heart Attack?

Prevent grease from blocking the arteries of your plumbing and the sewer system.

Kitchen fat, oil, and grease (FOG) cause problems similar to those that cholesterol causes in the human body. The sewer system has been on a high fat diet for far too long. The arteries of the system are becoming blocked by FOG from homes and businesses. The #1 cause of sanitary sewer overflow is pipe blockages with 70% of the blockages caused by grease accumulations in the system.

Animal fat, grease, and vegetable oil cooking processes go into the sewer system when they are poured down the drains in homes. Flushing with hot water does not remove the problem; it just moves it further down the pipe where it will eventually solidify. This will eventually lead to a complete

blockage in either the plumbing of the home, your private house lateral, or the sewer collection system. A sewer heart attack will then occur and result in the back up of untreated sanitary sewage.

Regular maintenance of the collection system by the District’s Collection Crews is vital to keep the arteries of the sewer system flowing in many areas. District staff uses high pressure water jetting to remove grease build up and minimize the potential for sanitary sewer overflows, but they cannot stop them all. You can help prevent FOG blockages by taking steps to reduce the amount of fat, oil, and grease going to the system. Here are some steps you can take to help:

- Cool down cooking oil, grease, and fat and **pour them into a can—not down the drain**

- Scrape solid grease from pans and dispose of it in the garbage
- Wipe small amounts of oil and grease off of pans, dishes, utensils, etc. with a paper towel and dispose of towel in the garbage.
- When trimming meat, collect the scraps and throw them away in the garbage.

There are two ways to deal with the grease problem: prevent it by reducing the amount of FOG that is introduced to the system, or manually remove the grease that accumulates in the system. Prevention is the most cost effective. The only way to remove the grease build-up is manually. In your home, that usually requires the services of a plumber. In the sewer system, it requires the use of a utility crew and equipment. But in the end, it costs someone something!

“The #1 cause of sanitary sewer overflow is pipe blockages with 70% of the blockages caused by grease accumulations”

Hazel Dell Sewer District

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

Commissioners: Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins

Manager: Bob Bandarra

We're on the web!
www.hdsd.com

Your clean water community partner!

You Can Pay Your Bill by Direct Debit

In response to customer requests, the District is pleased to offer direct debit as a payment method to our customers. To request an enrollment form, please contact the Finance department at (360) 750-5876, or you can

send an email to smartinez@hdsd.com. We can mail, fax, or email you a form. Forms are also available at the front desk for those customers wanting to take advantage of this payment method.

Would You Like to Pay by Credit Card?

Would you be interested in paying your sewer bill with a credit card? If so, please let us know; we are in the process of determining the feasibility of allowing credit card payments. If you would like to see the District offer this option, please call the

Finance department at (360) 750-5876, or send an email to paysurvey@hdsd.com.



New Phone System Implemented

In order to better serve you, the District has implemented a new phone system. You can still call the District's main phone number at (360) 750-5876. However, if you want to reach a particular person directly, you now have that option! Our staff's contact numbers are listed below for your information.

Administration

Bob Bandarra, Manager	993-8821
Hugh Findlay, Human Resources/Risk Mgmt. Administrator	993-8845
Kim Thur, Executive Assistant	993-8822

Finance

Fred Kowell, Finance Director/Treasurer	993-8824
Sheryl Amburgey, Finance Specialist II	993-8808
Kim Coughlin, Office Assistant II	993-8801
Kim Lindauer, Office Assistant II	993-8802
Schlyce Martinez, Finance Specialist II	993-8805
Kelly Solomon, Finance Specialist II	993-8803

Engineering

Chuck McDonald, Assistant Mgr./Engineer	993-8823
Doug Arnold, Pretreatment Coordinator	993-8817
Steve Bacon, Dev. Review Coordinator	993-8810
George Ball, Inspector	993-8832
Linda Bauer, Senior Administrative Assistant	993-8809
Tammy Coxen, Office Assistant III	993-8812
Tim Douglas, Local Facilities Specialist	993-8826
Chris Hodnefield, Dev. Review Specialist	993-8813
Warren Knuth, Engineering Supervisor	993-8818
Todd Miller, Inspector	993-8842
John Peterson, Capital Programs Director	993-8819
Cedrick Redula, DEA Coordinator	993-8835
Tom Sedlacek, GIS Services Specialist II	993-8811

Maintenance

Rick Nelson, Maintenance Manager	993-8831
Tony Bisson, Maintenance Supervisor	993-8841
Bobbie Campbell, Office Assistant I	993-8829

(Note: To contact any of our Maintenance crew members, please call Bobbie Campbell)

