

The Pipeline

November/December 2005

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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:

Denny Kiggins
Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey

Manager:

Bob Bandarra

**HDSD Stats...
(Jan.-Aug. 2005)**

- Processed 58,259 calls
- Connected approximately 5 homes to sewer per day
- 273 injury-free days in the field
- 29 new subdivisions
- 13 new commercial projects
- 1 new apartment complex



HDSD Becomes 1st District Accredited by APWA

During the last week of August, the American Public Works Association (APWA) sent three evaluators and its technical director to evaluate District operations. They reviewed 274 practices covering everything from strategic planning to landscape management. **Following the review, the District became the 1st special purpose district to receive accreditation in North America and only the 2nd organization to be accredited in the State of Washington.**



The reviewers found the District fully compliant with 270 practices and substantially compliant with the other 4. This is the highest rating ever achieved of the 26 agencies that have received accreditation in North America. The APWA began its formal accreditation program in 1996. "We weren't judged against other organizations, but against strict standards and best practices defined by APWA," said Chuck McDonald, Assistant Manager and Engineer for the District.

The final report notes that the Hazel Dell Sewer District's overall operations are well documented and support successful planning and implementation of best practices and policies at the District. In addition, APWA selected 8 of the District's policies/procedures as "model practices," which means they are the "best of the best" in those areas and will be made available to other public organizations in North America who are looking for best practices.

A lot of hard work went into this process throughout the District over the last several years. Everyone was involved in defining, writing and documenting policies and procedures that identify and support the right way of accomplishing tasks, goals and objectives at the District. This hard work led to the reviewers commenting that "the District had the highest rating for any accredited organization that they've ever reviewed," McDonald said.

New Name, Same Great Service

On July 12, the Hazel Dell Sewer District Board of Commissioners unanimously approved changing the District's name. Starting January 1, 2006, the District will become **Clark Regional Wastewater District**. The new name reflects the broader role the District is playing in the county.

Effective January 1st, The website will change to **www.crwwd.com**. Please note the second 'w' in the site address. Anyone connecting to the old website (www.hdsd.com) will be redirected to the new one.

Also after the new year, customers will need to make their checks payable to **Clark Regional Wastewater District**. Customers utilizing our Direct Debit Program will not need to make any changes to their accounts.

We look forward to continuing our service to you.

36th Avenue Pump Station Upgrade

In August, the District began its \$1.5 million upgrade work on the 36th Avenue Pump Station near the Salmon Creek trailhead. “This project gives the 30-year-old station the capacity of handling about 5,000 more homes, or about 3 million gallons of sewage on a peak day,” said John Peterson, District Capital Program Director.

“The upgrade is an interim measure covered by our Phase 4 plans,” he said. “It’s funded locally with Battle Ground sharing part of the cost.”

When it’s completed in December, the project will provide flood protection from Salmon Creek, as well as odor control. “Although passersby will only see a six-foot brick wall, it goes 25 feet into the ground to protect the station from flooding,” explained Peterson.

A new building next to the station housing a large fan will blow odors into compost where special bacteria feed on it to reduce odors.



REMINDER

FREE leaf disposal at
H&H Wood Recyclers
West Van Materials
Recovery Center &
McFarlane’s Bark
Ends Dec. 20



*Coupons Available
at District Office*

Read Labels Before Flushing

Homeowners sometimes assume the cloth wipes, diapers and other household cleaning materials they flush down the toilet are gone forever. That’s not the case. They can travel through more than 300 miles of pipes to choke District sewer pumps.

“The pumps attempt to shred these materials but clog up,” said Rick Nelson, District Maintenance Manager. The grayish pulp wraps around the pump and a two-person crew removes it, often in the middle of the night.

“So far this year, we’ve had 139 incidents of pumps ragging up,” he said. “Each occurrence takes about two hours to clear.” These are additional costs that impact all ratepayers.

Today there are no Washington State laws holding manufacturers to one definition for what’s biodegradable. This means manufacturers are all using different definitions for the term. It’s up to consumers to check the labels of all cleaning cloths and diapers.

If a product’s label doesn’t say “flushable,” then PLEASE toss it in the trash, not the toilet.

Free Dye Testing

District homeowners wanting to confirm sewer connections can call to request a record search to verify their connection, according to District Maintenance Manager, Rick Nelson. “If the records don’t indicate connection, homeowners can ask for a free dye test,” he said.

Homeowners must be present for the test, which uses non-staining green or red dye. A District Maintenance person will ask the owner/occupant to flush the dye down a toilet and then the District employee verifies that the colored water flows into the nearest downstream manhole. “Most of the time we do dye tests when a home changes hands, because the selling real estate agent requests confirmation of sewer service,” he said.

Nelson explained that because the District first verifies connections using District records that there’s not much demand for dye testing. “Up through August this year, we’ve only conducted eight or nine,” he said.

District homeowners can contact the District office if they have any questions about their sewer connection.