

The Pipeline



January/February 2010

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Vancouver, WA 98668

Phone: 360-750-5876
Fax: 360-750-7570

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:

Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins
Norm Harker

General Manager:

John M. Peterson

CRWWD Stats...
(Jan – Nov 2009)

- Processed 49,551 calls
- Connected approximately .9 homes to sewer per day
- 763 injury-free days in the field (since 10/31/07)
- 15 new subdivisions
- 6 new commercial projects

District Supports Water Quality With New Program

The District's septic elimination program provides funding to install new sewer lines in neighborhoods where septic systems are increasingly failing. "The Sunnyside neighborhood is the first septic elimination project", said Robin Krause, Capital Program Engineer.

"The program is intended to help protect and enhance the quality of the water resources and reduce the risk of environmental health problems", Krause said. The District Board of Commissioners adopted the program last year. The program supports the District's mission of *"providing customer-focused, professional wastewater services in an environmentally and financially responsible manner."*

Septic Failures and Health

Over the past 10 years, Sunnyside had 11 reported septic tank failures. Most septic systems last 20 to 30 years when properly designed, which means that septic failures are likely to increase in the neighborhood. In addition, results from specialized testing by Clark County's Clean Water Program, coupled with the presence of a failing septic system that could not be reconstructed, quickly moved the neighborhood to the top of the program list.

"Extending service to areas with a track record of failing septic systems keeps our community healthy and environmentally sound. The septic elimination program allows the District to pursue projects that make sense from an environmental view," Krause said.

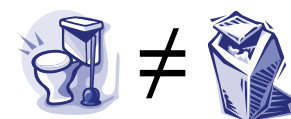
No Connection Required

"The first question Sunnyside residents asked was do they have to connect to the sewer lines running past their homes, and the answer is no," Krause said. "However, we are providing connection incentives. The District is offering homeowners low-cost construction financing to connect their home to the sewers. Also, any resident who connects during the first year after construction can take advantage of our 30 percent construction cost deferral."

Already three homes have connected and several other Sunnyside residents are making inquiries.

For information about the septic elimination program and estimates about the cost to connect, call the District office at 750-5876 and ask for the Engineering department. Or go online at http://www.crwwd.com/residential/connect_options.php to find out more about the septic elimination program.

REMEMBER...



Your Toilet is NOT a trash can!

Five Years, No Rate Increase

The District continues its track record in maintaining competitive and stable rates. A conservative approach to finance management has benefited District customers. For the fifth year in a row, the District has been able to keep the same sewer rate—\$34 a month for customers.

As in past years, the District continued to look for ways to cut its annual operating costs this year. Total salary and benefit costs were reduced by the District freezing cost of living adjustments for its staff and Washington state lowering pension contribution rates, respectively. One of the District's larger budgeted costs, the cost of sewage treatment paid to Clark County and the City of Vancouver, was reduced by nearly one percent, helping to reduce overall District operating costs by one percent as well.

During the peak construction years of 2004 to 2006, the District built up modest cash reserves it could use to invest in infrastructure during tighter economic times. "Our cautious planning has put us in a positive position to weather the recessionary storm," said Ken Andrews, Finance Director.

"Having modest reserves gives us the flexibility to enhance our infrastructure and meet growth demands while construction costs are at their lowest in years," Andrews added. "In the long run, this type of investment helps our customers get more value for their dollar thereby keeping overall rates lower."

Meet Warren Knuth



As a youth, Warren Knuth worked surveying with his father, who was an engineer. At that time, he never imagined he'd put the skill his father taught him to use in planning sewer connections. After graduating from Evergreen State College with an emphasis in biology, he became a park ranger. Then in 1979, he hired into the District as an inspector and his job was to check connections at commercial and residential construction sites, as well as subdivisions. "In those days, inspectors pretty much covered every job large or small," Knuth said.

Now the thirty-year veteran is the Engineering Supervisor for the District and leads the part of the Engineering department responsible for design, geographic information system (GIS) and industrial pretreatment. As the Engineering Supervisor, he oversees the sewer design for District projects, its pump stations and main extensions. This means that he often works with homeowners or neighborhoods needing sewer connections.

Knuth said his department designed the sewer connections for the Sunnyside neighborhood, as well as worked with the neighborhood association. "I really enjoyed working with everyone," he said. "It was satisfying to bring the neighborhood its first sewer system."

With his twin sons now grown, Knuth said he's found there is life after children. When not at work or puttering around his home, he enjoys road trips, hiking and excursions to the Oregon coast with his wife.

How Do I Pay My Bill?

- ◆ **Online:** www.CRWWD.com
Debit/Credit Card & Electronic Check Payments
- ◆ **By Phone:** Call (360) 750-5876 and press "1". Available 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday, except District holidays
Debit/Credit Card Payments
- ◆ **In Person:** 8000 NE 52 Court, Vancouver, WA. Available 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday, except District holidays
Cash/Check/Debit/Credit Card Payments
- ◆ **By Mail:** PO Box 8955, Vancouver, WA 98668
Check Payments
- ◆ Payments can be made at any **First Independent Bank** branch office
Cash/Check Payments
- ◆ **Payment Drop Box:** 8000 NE 52 Court, Vancouver, WA
Check Payments
- ◆ **Recurring Payments:** Authorization form found at www.CRWWD.com
Direct Debit from Bank Account

Note: The District accepts Visa or MasterCard credit/debit cards only