

# The Pipeline

July/August 2007

8000 NE 52 Court  
PO Box 8979  
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:**  
Norm Harker  
Neil Kimsey  
Denny Kiggins

**Manager:**  
Bob Bandarra

## CRWWD Stats... (Jan.– May '07)

- Processed 25,130 calls
- Connected approximately 3 homes to sewer per day
- 151 injury-free days in the field
- 16 new subdivisions
- 6 new commercial projects

## REMEMBER...



Your toilet is NOT a trash can!

## First Read, Then Flush

**D**iapers, cloth wipes and other household and cleaning materials continue to plague District pumps, raising the District's concern about replacing pumps earlier in their life cycle than necessary. Residents may assume that whatever they flush down the toilet is biodegradable and once flushed are gone forever.

This is not the case! The discards travel through miles of pipe eventually choking the District's sewer pumps. The pumps try to grind the flushed items, but they end up binding pumps and stopping them. The District must send out two-person crews to unclog the pumps, often in the middle of the night. Each unclogging takes about two hours.

"We have several pumps that need replacing and we're looking at different styles that handle household cleaning materials better," said Rick Nelson, Maintenance Manager. "The trade off is the rag-proof pumps have lower flow volumes and also are more costly."

One problem both consumers and the District face is defining biodegradable. Washington offers manufacturers no legal definition for what's biodegradable. Today each one is using different definitions for the term, which places the interpretation on consumers.

Until manufacturers are held accountable, it's up to consumers to read the labels of all cleaning cloths and diapers. The basic rule is: If a product's label doesn't say "flushable," then toss it in the trash, not the toilet.

The lack of a state legislated definition also hurts the District's budget and our customers' wallets. "Wearing out pumps early will have an impact on the District budget that could result in higher rates," Nelson said.

## Parade of Bands—Winners...Again

**O**n Saturday, May 19, the District participated in the Hazel Dell Parade of Bands. The District's entry, "The Longhorn Vector", was a big hit, complete with smoking nostrils and blinking red eyes. **Once again, the District was a winner—receiving the Grand Marshal's Award and the Spirit Award.** Thank you to all of our customers that cheered us on during the event. See you next year!



## Need a Meeting Room? Call Us

The Clark Regional Wastewater District has a large conference room with a maximum capacity of 81 people, although it holds 45 to 50 people more comfortably.



The no-smoking room is available on a first-come, first-serve basis. While it cannot be used for parties, religious gatherings, fee-based or for profit meetings, the District does allow for food and drinks in the adjoining room.

Separate reservations must be made for each use, and the frequency of meetings is subject to District approval. However, the District will review requests for recurring meetings.

Parking is limited Monday-Friday, so the District encourages carpooling.

For full details or to reserve the room, go to the District Website ([www.crwwd.com](http://www.crwwd.com)) and click on "Reserve Conference Room" in the main menu. Or contact Kim Coughlin by e-mail ([kcoughlin@crwwd.com](mailto:kcoughlin@crwwd.com)) or by phone at (360) 993-8801 if you have any questions about reservations.

## Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Water consumption increases in late summer largely because of lawn watering. Here are a few tips to reduce your outside use of water.

- ◆ Water lawns in early morning or in the evening using short, repeated intervals for better absorption.
- ◆ Put a shut-off nozzle on your hose when watering plants or washing your car.
- ◆ Consider native plants when landscaping, because they need less care and may not require extra watering once they're growing.
- ◆ Layer two to four inches of mulch around plants and trees to reduce evaporation.
- ◆ Use a drip or trickle irrigation system to supply a slow, steady supply of water to plant roots.



## Call Before You Dig

Why should you call 811 or 1-800-424-5555 before you dig for sprinkler systems, fence posts or planting deeper than 12 inches?

**IT COULD SAVE YOUR LIFE!** Many things lie buried beneath the ground. Power lines and gas lines are two of the most deadly.

**IT COULD SAVE YOUR PROPERTY!** The following can occur as a result of not calling for a locate: fire or explosion from a damaged gas line, erosion from a broken sewer or water line or simply the inconvenience of losing your phone or cable TV service due to a cut line.

**IT COULD SAVE YOU MONEY!** It doesn't cost anything to call in a locate request. With one quick telephone call, all utilities in your area will be notified to come to mark the location of their lines. However, if you damage a utility line and did NOT call for a locate, you may be liable for up to **three times** the actual amount of the damage. Some high-capacity telephone lines carry up to **one million dollars per minute** in calls!

**ITS THE LAW!** According to RCW 19.122, anyone digging deeper than 12 inches must call for locates two business days before they dig. This holds true for private property, city, county, state or federal lands and railroad right-of-way. In addition to damages and civil penalties, anyone who ignores this law may also be subject to penalties from the Department of Labor and Industries.

To protect property, prevent injuries, and lawsuits...

Call toll free 811 two business days BEFORE you dig

24 hours a day

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

A FREE SERVICE