

# The Pipeline

September/October 2006

8000 NE 52 Court  
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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:**

Neil Kimsey  
Denny Kiggins  
Norm Harker

**Manager:**

Bob Bandarra

**CRWWD Stats...  
(Jan.-July 2006)**

- Processed 39,349 calls
- Connected approximately 3 homes to sewer per day
- 212 injury-free days in the field
- 30 new subdivisions
- 7 new commercial projects

**REMEMBER...**



Your Toilet is NOT a trash can!

## District Studies Growth Needs

The Clark County urban area continues to expand along the existing boundary. Clark County is interested in seeing a regional sewer utility that could provide services to better serve all of the urban areas within the County. Much of the area that the County is adding to the new urban growth area will be served by the District. As the District plans for this growth and additional demand, we remain focused on providing the best service available at the least cost. Because of this concern, we constantly look for cost savings for our customers. This includes partnering with various jurisdictions to streamline processes. We have discussed and implemented opportunities related to combining operations with Clark Public Utilities. Recently the City of Vancouver also opened discussion about whether merging its services with the District would better serve the current and future urban growth area.

As a result, the District and Clark County have contracted with a consultant to conduct a feasibility study about combining the District and Clark County's wastewater functions with Clark Public Utilities or the City of Vancouver to form a consolidated water and wastewater utility. The study will consider what is cost effective from the City's and CPU's perspective. Its recommendations will take into account the financial, operational and customer service benefits of both combinations, including how each option could cut expenses, cut out overlapping services and improve cost savings.

In addition to the potential savings to customers, utility options being considered will likely affect how the area grows over the long-term.

The study is scheduled to be completed by February 2007.

## Direct Debit is Available

Direct debit allows your Clark Regional Wastewater District payments to come directly out of your checking or savings account. The District bills in two month increments.

"This shouldn't be confused with using a credit card," said Bob Bandarra, District Manager. "Right now we don't offer the credit card alternative. We anticipate implementing that option in 2007."

To automate your payment to the District using this option, just bring or send in a voided check (to authorize payment from your checking account) or a savings deposit slip (to authorize payment from your savings account) with a "Direct Debit Payment" form to the District office.

The form is available from either the District office or off the District website under "All Forms and Requests," then "Direct Debit" ([http://www.crwwd.com/forms/Direct\\_Debit/Direct\\_Debit\\_Authorization.pdf](http://www.crwwd.com/forms/Direct_Debit/Direct_Debit_Authorization.pdf)). To participate in the program, you must have your documentation in the month before the next billing date.

Canceling the program is easy. If you are on the debit program and want to cancel, you must put your cancellation notice in writing and include your name, address, customer number, date you want the cancellation to be effective and sign it.

If you have questions about this program, contact Kimberly Coughlin at the District office at 750-5876.

## 2007 Budget—Schedule of Meetings

The annual District budgeting process is about to start again. The District will be holding workshops for the public on its 2007 budget at the District offices. The first will be on October 31 and the second November 14. The official budget hearing will be on November 28 with budget approval following at the District's December 12 meeting. Next year's budget will be about \$13 million, which is up slightly from 2006. However, the District projects no rate increase for next year.

According to Bob Bandarra, District Manager, few ratepayers attend these sessions, but the District Board is interested in hearing ratepayer perspectives. Check [www.crwwd.com](http://www.crwwd.com) for more information as these dates approach.

## Documentation Needs for Senior Rates

Earlier this year, the District began processing reduced rates for low-income senior citizens over 65-years old. In October, the District will review expanding this program by dropping the age to 62, which will provide additional rate relief, subsidized by the remaining ratepayers. The qualification is based on the federal poverty income guideline, which is \$16,037. District seniors with incomes at or below that level can qualify for the \$25 per month rate. The monthly payment of \$34 dropped to \$30 for seniors with incomes between \$16,037 and \$25,000.

Seniors wanting this decrease in their sewer rates need to bring their Social Security statement, IRS 1040 form and photo identification (either a current or expired driver's license) to the District office on an annual basis.

"Anyone who does not file taxes can ask the District for an IRS 4506-T Non-filing Form," said Bob Bandarra, District Manager. The IRS will need to complete this form, but will not process non-filing forms during the peak tax season. So the best time to apply is between June 15 and January 1. The District has arranged for the IRS to send this document directly to our office.

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

## Overdepth Policy Update

In striving to continually control cost impacts to our customers, the District Board of Commissioners recently adopted a new Overdepth policy after obtaining input from the Building Industry Association.

The District reviews plans for new development and determines the necessary depth to serve all remaining properties in an area. This can result in the need to construct lines deep in order to provide future service and limit the number of pump stations in the system.

In the past, the District paid the additional costs for Overdepth installations in order to continue the sewer. This cost will now be paid by the developer.

## District-Wide Local Facilities Charge

The District Board of Commissioners adopted a new policy establishing a District-wide Local Facilities Charge (LFC) following a public hearing on the policy on August 8, 2006. This will result in property owners with sewer adjacent to their property, that did not contribute to the mainline extension/installation, to be assessed an equitable charge for the sewer. It will not apply to properties that are included in an existing LFC extension, latecomer area or Utility Local Improvement District. This new process is intended to distribute costs in the most fair manner possible.

If you want to check for information on your property, contact Chris Hodnefield at 993-8813.

## FREE LEAF DISPOSAL With This Coupon October 1—December 20, 2006

Prevent flooding—don't place leaves in the street.  
Instead, bring this coupon for **free** leaf disposal to:

**H&H Wood Recyclers**, 8401 NE 117 Avenue, **360-892-2805**  
Monday-Saturday 8 AM-5 PM; Sunday 9 AM-4 PM (closed Thanksgiving Day)

**West Van Materials Recovery Center**, 6601 NW Old Lower River Rd.,  
**360-737-1727**  
Monday-Friday 6 AM-6 PM; Saturday 8 AM-4 PM (closed Sundays and Thanksgiving Day)

**McFarlane's Bark**, 8806 NE 117 Ave., **360-892-6125**  
Monday-Sunday 8 AM-5 PM (closed Thanksgiving Day and Sundays in December)

This coupon must be presented at the drop-off site and is for **leaves ONLY**. Yard debris or mixed loads will be charged at the regular price. Leaves brought in plastic bags must be dumped out.

Please complete the following information:

My street address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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