

# Connections

November/December 2018



## District Forecasts Continued Rate Stability and Affordability

**Forward planning shows only inflationary adjustments needed for monthly sewer rates over the next four years.**

The District works hard to provide some of the highest levels of service at some of the most competitive rates in our region. This means we deliver a great deal of value for you, our customer, and each dollar you pay. We have recently completed a multi-year financial review. We can continue to deliver reliable service with only annual inflationary rate adjustments of approximately 2.6% per year in our base sewer rate, equivalent to an additional \$1 per month over the next few years.

### Dealing with Increasing Costs

Like all of you, we are facing increasing costs for almost every aspect of our business. Most of those costs are escalating faster than 2.6% per year. We can maintain rate increases at only \$1 per month through forward planning and by developing a culture of innovation and efficiency. District staff and Board members are regularly identifying new and better ways to meet the needs of the utility, investing in next-generation electronic tools and systems.

Most District customers pay a flat "Base Rate." District customers in Ridgefield pay a higher rate, which is tied to the higher cost of service for that area and also is indexed to growth. In summary, the financial planning predicts the following rate schedule for the next four years:

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Base Monthly Rate*	\$38	\$39	\$40	\$41	\$42
Ridgefield Rate Estimate*	\$60.50	\$61.16	\$60 – \$62		

\*Per Equivalent Residential Unit (ERU).

### 2019 Budget Meetings: You're Invited!

Keep in mind that 2019 rate changes are proposed, not final. They depend on the outcome of budget planning meetings — and you're invited! Your input at the remaining meetings can help us continue to bring you the highest quality service with only modestly increasing, predictable rates.

Calendar of Events		
<b>Nov. 13</b>	<b>Dec. 11</b>	<b>Dec. 26</b>
Board Meeting and 2019 Budget Work Session	Public Hearing on 2019 Budget	2019 Budget adopted

(Continued next page.)

#### Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Closed Weekends  
& Holidays

#### Emergency?

Call 24/7:  
360-750-5876

#### Commissioners

Norm Harker  
Denny Kiggins  
Neil Kimsey

#### General Manager

John M. Peterson

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## Rate Forecast, continued

### Managing Growth

The rate forecast also reflects the District's challenge in managing a growing utility. Growth impacts us in many ways.

First, we must make sure new development pays its way into the system. The District is planning to increase connection charges for new development over the next three years, to ensure that growth does not place an undue burden on our existing customers. Those planned increases have already been communicated to the development community earlier this year.

Second, the growth in the customer base helps to spread all the costs of running the District over a larger rate base. In many ways, growth actually helps us keep individual rates low.

Thank you for your attention and understanding as we plan ahead to maintain reliable service for all customers and support our community's growth.

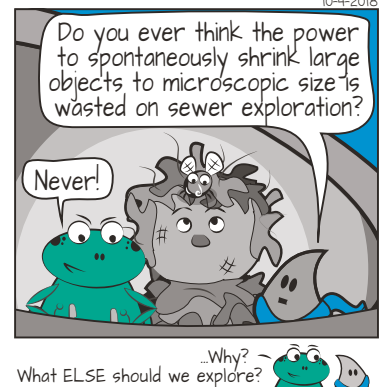
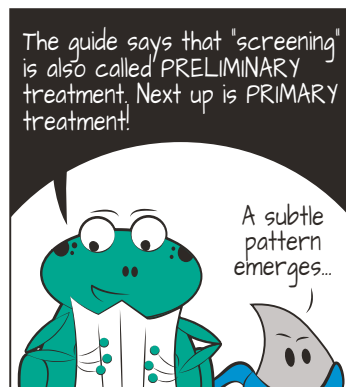
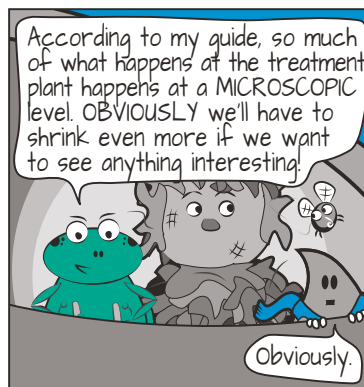
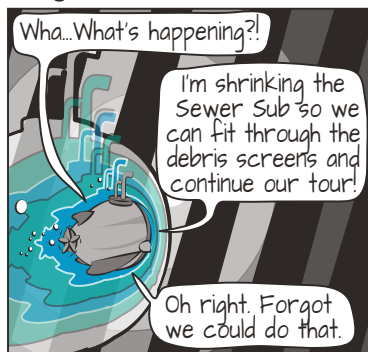
## Arrange a Speaker

Does your neighborhood association, business association or other community group want to know more about the wastewater system? Our staff enjoy visiting community members and explaining how sewer services touch many aspects of our lives, including public health, environmental health and economic development.

If you are interested in having a speaker at one of your meetings or would like to organize a tour of the treatment plant, please contact Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or by email at [kthur@crwwd.com](mailto:kthur@crwwd.com).



### Frog and the F.O.G.G.



## Free Leaf Disposal COUPON

For Vancouver and Clark County residents only

Prevent street flooding — NEVER blow or place leaves in the street.  
Use this coupon for free leaf disposal from:

October 1 - December 31, 2018

### DISPOSAL DROP-OFF LOCATIONS:

**H & H Wood Recyclers**  
8401 NE 117th Ave  
Vancouver, WA  
360-892-2805

**McFarlane's Bark**  
8806 NE 117th Ave  
Vancouver, WA  
360-892-6125

**West Van Materials Recovery Center**  
6601 NW Old Lower River Rd  
Vancouver, WA | 360-737-1727

**Triangle Resources**  
612 SE Union St  
Camas, WA  
360-834-7253



This coupon must be presented at the drop-off site and is for **LEAVES ONLY**, up to 5 cubic yards.

No trimmings, yard debris or mixed loads with this coupon; these items will be charged at the regular price.

Leaves must be emptied from plastic or kraft bags.

Sponsored by:



To redeem coupon, complete the following information:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



City of Vancouver residents: Funding for your participation in this program is provided through your garbage rates.  
Clark County residents: Funding for participation is provided by Clark County Public Works.