

Connections

September/October 2015



The Bottom Line: Affordable Rates, Reliable Service (Part II)

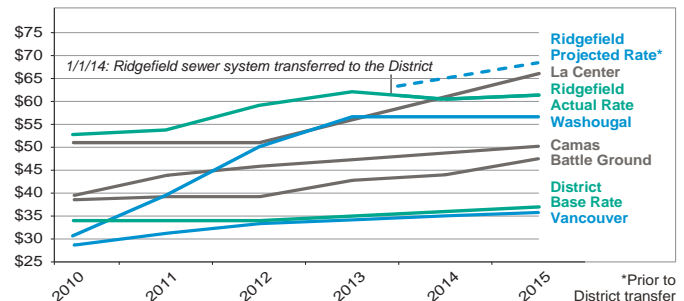
In the May/June edition, we talked about the core services your rates pay for and how the District's rates compare with others in Clark County. In this issue, you'll learn about how we keep rates affordable and consistent.

What's trending?

Utility providers, like other businesses, are facing inflation and increasing costs such as more expensive materials, equipment and labor. However, compared with 32 other providers in Clark County and across western Washington, the District has been able to keep their rates some of the most affordable and stable. On average, rates among providers in the region have increased more than \$10 per month since 2010, whereas **District base rates during that same 5-year period have only increased a total of \$3 per month – an average increase of less than 2% per year.** This is reflective of the District's efforts to keep costs at or below the rate of inflation.

The chart to the right shows how rates have trended for Clark County sewer providers since 2010, including the District's base rate and Ridgefield's total rate versus its forecasted rates prior to transferring to the District.

Having a larger rate base (more customers) helps even out rate spikes. Being proactive to reduce unexpected costs is also important. The District uses careful, long-term forecasting to maintain and grow the system in a fiscally responsible way. In 2014, Ridgefield was transferred into the District's service area, with one of the main goals being to continue to stabilize rates for all the District's ratepayers.



Flat rates are more efficient

One of the most common questions we receive is why we bill at a flat rate. Flat rates best reflect the actual price of service, which is made up mainly of fixed costs and is only minimally influenced by the volume of wastewater coming from each home. For example, the cost of inspecting and maintaining the overall collection system doesn't really vary based on the flow discharged by any one individual. This is different than other utilities, such as power or natural gas, that sell a commodity and pass this cost along to the customer.

Flat rates are also much more efficient to administer, which translates into lower operating costs. If we were to bill under a "consumption" based system, the total dollars billed to all customers would be higher. Visit the FAQ page on our website if you'd like to know more about our billing structure: www.crwwd.com/faq.html.

The actual cost of providing a customer with service is only minimally influenced by the volume of wastewater discharged from their home.

Hours of Operation

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

Emergency?

Call 24/7:
360-750-5876

Commissioners

Norm Harker
Neil Kimsey
Denny Kiggins

General Manager

John M. Peterson

Visit us online at www.CRWWD.com

PO Box 8979 • Vancouver, WA 98668 • Phone: (360) 750-5876 • Fax: (360) 750-7570



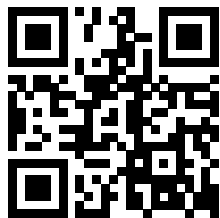
Participate in 2016 budget planning

August kicks off the District's annual budget planning period, which ends with budget adoption by the Board of Commissioners in December. You are invited to attend any of the five public meetings:

- **October 13:** Budget workshop #1 will present six-year financial and capital (infrastructure) plans.
- **October 27:** Budget workshop #2 will review operations and maintenance (O&M) expenses, the budget decision packages, and training budgets.
- **November 10:** Budget workshop #3 will review revenues/expenses and fund balances.
- **December 8:** Budget public hearing at 5 p.m.
- **December 22:** Board action on 2016 budget.

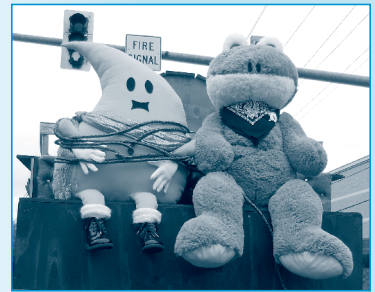
Did you know?

The District's rates are among the lowest, not only in Clark County, but across all of western Washington. To see a comparison of your rates with more than 30 other sewer providers, scan the code with your smart phone or visit the website:
www.crwwd.com/rates.html



Come see us at the Safety Fair

Stop by our booth to find out about improvements we're making to your sewer system and grab your own *Freeze the Grease* kit. See you there!



Frog and F.O.G.G. will be at the Safety Fair booth to provide tips on how you can help keep our sewer system healthy

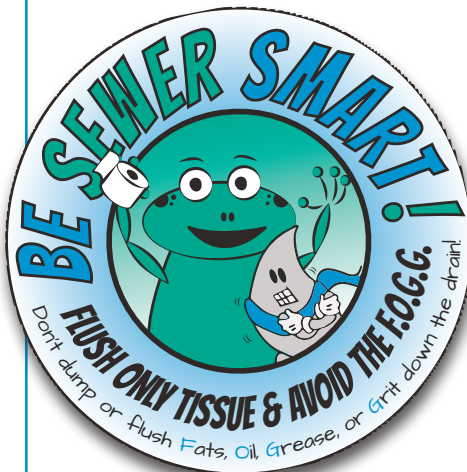
Calendar of Events

SEPTEMBER
19
Public Safety Fair

Saturday, September 19
Noon – 4 p.m.
Public Safety Complex,
505 Northwest 179th Street,
Ridgefield WA 98642

Help keep the gutters clean

It's that time of year again – when autumn leaves make our trees look gorgeous but our streets' storm drains unhappy. Take advantage of free leaf disposal this autumn and help our partner agencies keep debris off the streets and out of the storm drains.



Free Leaf Disposal

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, 2015

DISPOSAL LOCATIONS:

City Bark
2419 NE Andresen
360-253-8461

H & H Wood Recyclers
8401 NE 117th Ave
360-892-2805

West Van Materials Recovery Center
6601 NW Old Lower River Rd
360-737-1727

Triangle Resources
612 SE Union
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. Yard debris or mixed loads will be charged at the regular price. Leaves must be emptied from plastic bags.

Sponsored by:



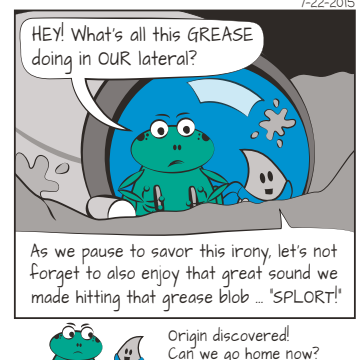
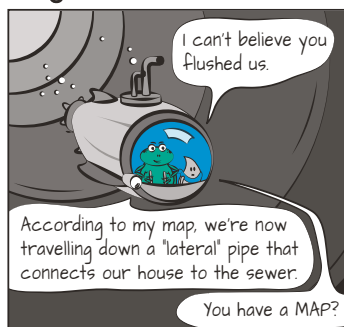
To redeem coupon, complete the following information:

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 and Environmental Services.

Frog and the F.O.G.G.



Origin discovered!
Can we go home now?

7-22-2015