

Connections

November/December 2014



Flush With the End in Mind – Reliable Service Tips, Part V

Over the last four issues, we have taken you on an educational journey of our wastewater system. We started at home, made our way through the gravity and pressure sewers that comprise the collection system, and then went through the treatment process. At each step, we shared "Reliability Tips" on how you can help keep the wastewater system operating efficiently. In this, the last issue of the series, we're going to close the loop and give you one last tip: **flush with the end in mind**. All waste goes somewhere, the question is – do you know where yours ends up?

Looking back

Consider what we've learned about the system. Wastewater contains both liquid and organic solids components. The liquids are treated to meet or exceed all water quality standards and then discharged into the Columbia River. The organic solids are treated to meet or exceed all standards, and the resulting biosolids are applied to farmlands as fertilizer.

Unfortunately, we learned there are also foreign objects in our wastewater, such as garbage, rags, wipes, debris, etc. that are flushed into the system and can't be treated. These foreign objects ultimately end up in the landfill after being removed from whichever part of the system they are caught in (pipes, pumps, and/or the treatment plant). If the foreign object has caused any damage to the system, repairs must be made. Foreign objects can also create blockages that result in sewage backups into homes or the environment. That is some expensive trash!

What you flush has financial impacts on operation and maintenance costs and can also endanger environmental and public health.

So, remember our tip – no matter what it is you are flushing or putting down the drain, it all ends up somewhere. The question is how expensive it is to treat or remove and what health risks it creates along the way. With your help following our "reliability tips," the District can continue to support our customers and the environment by providing effective sewer service at the lowest possible cost.

Reliability Tip: Flush with the end in mind.

Whether the wastewater is treated and discharged to the Columbia River or it is applied to farmland across Washington State, what we put into the sewer system has an impact on the environment. Now it's your turn to spread the word. Tell your family and friends where the sewer flows and how they can help to keep rates down by preventing unwanted items from going down the drain. Each one of us can make a difference.

For the full list of reliability tips, visit: www.crwwd.com/service-tips.html



Hours of Operation

Monday-Friday,
8 am - 5 pm
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



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 20, 2014

DISPOSAL LOCATIONS:

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

City Bark
2419 NE Andresen
360-253-8461

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.



2015 Budget and Rates

The District puts a great deal of effort into both short-term and long-term financial planning. These efforts help us provide the most benefit to our customers by ensuring high service levels while offering some of the lowest rates in the state. Below are some of the changes you will see in the new year.

\$1 Rate Increase

From January 1, the base sewer service rate for a single-family residence will rise \$1 per month to \$37. This increase is the third step in a rate plan enacted in 2012; there will be one more \$1 increase in 2016. These adjustments will ensure adequate funding to provide reliable and predictable service.

Ridgefield Adjustments

Ridgefield customers are the most recent additions to our service area. The Discovery Corridor pipeline is being constructed to connect the City of Ridgefield to the Salmon Creek Treatment Plant, which will support development and ensure low, reliable rates into the future. To pay for the new infrastructure, Ridgefield customers' bills include a System

Integration Charge (SIC) in addition to the base rate that all customers pay. This charge will be reduced annually respective to the number of Equivalent Residential Units added to the system. Based on growth to date, it will reduce from \$19.00 to \$18.80. As the area develops, Ridgefield customers will see the SIC slowly reduce over time.

Budget Planning

If you'd like to be involved in our budget process, please participate in the upcoming annual planning meetings:

- **November 10:** Budget workshop #3 will review revenues/ expenses and fund balances.
- **December 9:** Budget public hearing at 5 p.m.
- **December 23:** Board action on 2015 budget.

The Alliance Begins

The Discovery Clean Water Alliance is a formal partnership between Clark County, the Clark Regional Wastewater District, and the Cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield to jointly own and operate wastewater treatment and transmission services. This improves efficiency by enabling the partners to consolidate sewer capacity and share costs for future expansions.

2013 and 2014 have been transitional years; the Alliance incorporated and has been establishing legal and operating procedures. Beginning on January 1, 2015, the Alliance will legally take ownership of the treatment and transmission system.

Customers will not notice a difference from the service side, but will benefit from the lower, more consistent rates that the Alliance will bring over the long term.

Did you know?

The biggest cost of sewer service is treatment. Find out how many pounds of trash and debris we remove from the sewer system each year – scan the code with your smart phone or visit

www.crwwd.com/pollution.html



Frog and the F.O.G.G.



I dunno. The message is good, but maybe we need to reconsider our spokesmodels.

Are you kidding me? I LOOK AWESOME!

Actually, your picture is particularly creepy.

You're just jealous.