

Connections



September/October 2012

CRWWD

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

General Manager:

John M. Peterson, P.E.

CRWWD Stats (Jan - July 2012)

- Processed 25,124 calls
- On average, connected 1 home to sewer per business day
- 9 new subdivisions
- 1 new commercial project



Join Us at Customer Update and Open House October 24!

District taking steps to help economy, ensure long-term stable rates for customers

As part of our commitment to keeping customers informed and engaged, Clark Regional Wastewater District (District) will be hosting a customer open house Wednesday, October 24 from 6:00-8:00 pm at District Headquarters (8000 NE 52nd Court, Vancouver). The open house will feature a series of interactive information stations where customers can learn about and provide feedback on upcoming projects and policy matters at their own pace. A few of those upcoming initiatives are profiled below.

Regional Sewer Alliance

After years of careful study, the District has decided to enter into a regional sewer alliance with Clark County and the Cities of Battle Ground and Ridgefield. The purpose of the Discovery Clean Water Alliance (DCWA) is to stabilize future rates for customers by sharing regional sewage transmission and treatment infrastructure, rather than building redundant facilities in each and every partner jurisdiction. An in-depth explanation of the Alliance is posted at www.discoverycwa.org.

District-Ridgefield System Merger

The District is considering entering into an agreement with the City of Ridgefield that would transfer ownership and operation of the Ridgefield sewer system to the District. This partnership is expected to benefit both partners. By joining the much larger District system, Ridgefield customers will avoid steep rate increases required to finance expansion of the Ridgefield Treatment Plant. District customers will benefit in the near-term by having new customers to help pay for an existing block of treatment capacity, and in the long-term as projected growth in Ridgefield adds new commercial and industrial users. For more information, please visit www.crwwd.com/RF_CRWWD_Utility_Merger.php.

(Continued on next page)

District Open House-- Save the Date

Date: Wednesday, October 24

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location: CRWWD
8000 NE 52nd Court
Vancouver, WA 98665

Come learn about upcoming projects & District policy matters. Snacks will be provided. Drop-ins welcome!

Join Us at Customer Update & Open House October 24! *(Continued)*

New Discovery Corridor Transmission Line

The District is coordinating efforts to install a new regional transmission line along Interstate-5 between the District's northern service area and City of Ridgefield. The Discovery Corridor Wastewater Transmission System will make it possible for commercial and industrial properties not currently served by sewer to connect to the regional system. This is a first and critical step in expanding economic opportunity and job growth in north Clark County. A project overview is available at www.discoverycwa.org.

Reductions to District Connection Fees

Based on favorable market conditions, the District Board has directed staff to refinance existing capital bonds. The resulting savings on interest payments will enable the District to reduce connection fees, the funds that help pay for system expansions, in all portions of our existing service area. The amount of reduction will vary depending on location and other factors. The Board is hopeful this policy decision will lessen the overall cost burden on new and expanding businesses and stimulate increased local economic vitality. Please visit www.crwwd.com/RF_CRWWD_Utility_Merger.php for projected fee reductions in your area.

Operations & Maintenance Rate Increase

The District has consistently maintained one of the lowest sewer rates in Washington. While fiscal responsibility is one of our core values, so is ensuring reliable, predictable service for our customers.

A recent telephone survey of our customers revealed strong agreement with these priorities. To maintain this level of service, the District must complete approximately \$8 million in repairs on the sewer collection system and another \$12 million at the treatment plant. To lessen the burden on customers, we will space projects over several years.

To finance this required maintenance and adjust to inflationary costs in goods and services, the District will need to enact a modest rate increase for the first time in seven years. As currently proposed, the current rate of \$34/month would increase \$1 per year, over four years, beginning in late 2012. In other words, customers would pay a rate of \$38/month by 2016. Once these phased adjustments are completed, the District customers will still enjoy one of the lowest rates in the state. For further explanation, or to provide comment on this proposed rate increase, please refer to the contact information provided in this newsletter or join us at the Open House.

2013 Budget Season

August kicks off the District's annual budget planning and ends with budget adoption by the Board of Commissioners in December.

2013 Budget Schedule

- October 23: Budget workshop #1 will review operations and maintenance expenses
- November 13: Budget workshop #2 will review the forecast of proposed construction projects and revenues
- November 27: Budget public hearing
- December 11: Board action on 2013 budget

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October 1 - December 20, 2012

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Instead, use this coupon for free leaf disposal at:

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.

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360-892-2805

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

McFarlane's Bark
8806 NE 117th Avenue
360-892-6125

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Clark County residents: Funding for your participation in this program is provided by Clark County Public Works and Environmental Services.