

The Pipeline



January/February 2011

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

CRWWD Stats...

(Jan – Nov 2010)

- Processed 44,138 calls
- Connected approximately 1 home to sewer per day
- 6 new subdivisions
- 7 new commercial projects

District Supporting Local Businesses

As reported in *The Columbian* newspaper, the Clark Regional Wastewater District Board of Commissioners recently established two new sewer connection programs that provide flexibility and cost deferral to encourage local economic development efforts. In October of 2010, the District Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted new financing options for commercial customers and cost deferral for residential development. Both approaches underscore the District's commitment to supporting local business and promoting economic growth and jobs creation.

Beginning immediately, commercial customers are able to apply for low-interest financing through the District when connecting to the sewer system. The requirements vary for owner-occupied businesses and those that are non-owner occupied. This will be the first time the District has made financing options available to commercial customers; with the intention of reducing initial connection costs and stimulating new business activity in the area the District serves.

New residences will also be eligible to defer the cost of sewer connection fees until the time of sale or occupancy. This program will benefit home builders in Clark County by eliminating interest payments on their connection fees or monthly sewer bills for vacant houses awaiting sale.

The District Board of Commissioners initiated these programs in response to needs expressed by local businesses. Removing some existing financial barriers may help make commercial and residential development more feasible for local investors in today's challenging market. Steve Bacon, Development Planning Engineer, says "I hope that the deferral process will allow home builders to better align their costs and income so that their projects will be successful. We look forward to assisting our business and commercial customers by bringing these types of programs to Clark County."

For more information or to inquire about participating in these programs, please contact Steve Bacon at (360) 993-8810 or sbacon@crwwd.com.

How Do I Pay My Bill?

- ◆ **Online:** www.CRWWD.com
Debit/Credit Card & Electronic Check Payments
 - ◆ **By Phone:** Call (360) 750-5876 and press "1". Available 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday, except District holidays
Debit/Credit Card Payments
 - ◆ **In Person:** 8000 NE 52 Court, Vancouver, WA. Available 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday-Friday, except District holidays
Cash/Check/Debit/Credit Card Payments
 - ◆ **By Mail:** PO Box 8955, Vancouver, WA 98668
Check Payments
 - ◆ Payments can be made at any **First Independent Bank** branch office
Cash/Check Payments
 - ◆ **Payment Drop Box:** 8000 NE 52 Court, Vancouver, WA
Check Payments
 - ◆ **Recurring Payments:**
Direct Debit from Bank Account (Authorization form found at www.CRWWD.com) & **Credit Card Payments**
- Note: The District accepts Visa or MasterCard credit/debit cards only*

REMEMBER...



Your Toilet is NOT a trash can!

District Board Adopts Balanced Budget for 2011

The 2011 District budget was developed in response to the two highest values we hear from you, our customers: – (1) ensure reliable service for all customers and (2) manage financial resources in a responsible manner. The District is restructuring its staff and priorities for 2011 to better focus on taking care of the sewer system and making sure the sewage flows reliably from your home or business to the treatment plant. Prudent fiscal management and careful investment also means that there will be no increases in our 2011 monthly rates or connection charges.

“At \$34 a month, we have some of the lowest sewer rates in Clark County,” said Ken Andrews, Finance Director. “In addition, according to a survey of taxes and user fees conducted by the Association of Washington Cities, the District’s rate is nearly \$8 lower than the statewide average monthly rate of \$42.”

“We continue to make targeted investments in our system while construction costs are at their lowest in years,” Andrews added, “knowing that in the long run, this type of investment helps customers get value for their dollar and, thereby, keep overall rates lower.” Targeted investments include a septic elimination program where we put in sewer lines to nearly 100 homes this past year in an area with high ground water and failing septic systems.

The sewer system is one of the most basic public services that works in the background everyday to protect public and environmental health. “It is critical that this system be managed well for the long-term success of our community,” noted John Peterson, General Manager. “We must be continually striking the right balance between investment in the system to keep it in good working order and the cost for service.”

District Garden Shared With Community

Within the District’s Strategic Plan, we seek to be an active partner within our community. Our employees are continually looking for these opportunities. Inspired by a friend who had created a ten thousand square foot garden to provide food in our community last year, Vikki Rowe, Finance Specialist II, suggested something more modest—that the District use two of the four small plots behind the District office for a community garden. Her idea was presented and approved in February of last year.

Very soon after that, six employees showed up after business hours with shovels and equipment to prepare the garden, volunteering their time and supplies.



About ten people worked on the garden on a volunteer basis during the spring and summer, planting, weeding and watering tomatoes, kale, spinach, peas, carrots, cucumbers and beets. A master gardener even volunteered time to show the group how to grow tomatoes.

The District donated over 50 plastic grocery bags of food to Share House, the River of Life Church and Open House Ministries in 2010. These groups offered them to families in need.



“Next year, we plan to garden all four plots,” said Rowe.