

# Connections



September/October 2013

**Clark Regional Wastewater District**  
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.

## Freeze the Grease!



Would you like to receive a free "Freeze the Grease"

kit? Simply provide your mailing address to Kim Thur at (360) 993-8822 or by email to [kthur@crwwd.com](mailto:kthur@crwwd.com).

**Smart Bunnies Know**  
Flush Only Tissue in the Toilet



NO wipes or other products!

## District Adds City of Ridgefield Sewer System

*Move will maintain stable rates for sewer customers, expand economic opportunity*

The Clark Regional Wastewater District Board of Commissioners and Ridgefield City Council have officially approved an historic agreement. The Agreement transfers ownership and operation of the City's sewer collection system to the District effective January 1, 2014.

Recognizing that there were substantial challenges that the City was facing in order to provide sewer service to their community, the City and District determined there was mutual benefits if a transfer occurred. The City and District have studied the transfer and worked out the details over the last two years, ensuring that it was in the best interests of the rate payers. The Agreement is a testimony to the commitment and ability of the City and District to deliver practical and effective solutions.

The City's service area represents a great opportunity for the District. According to the US Census Bureau, Ridgefield is the fifth fastest growing city in the state. At roughly 5,200 people it is only approximately 6% of the District; however, it has significant growth potential. The

Ridgefield Interstate-5 junction area, for instance, is zoned to accommodate more industrial and commercial activity than anywhere else in the region. In 2012 and 2013 to date, the City is growing at a substantial pace. This is important because growth in the overall size of the District's rate base is a significant factor in our ability to maintain stable and low rates for all customers.



In 2014, City residents will pay a sewer service rate of \$55.00 a month, plus an additional 10% City operating fee. The total City rate includes a "system integration charge" over and above the District's base monthly sewer service rate (currently \$35.00 a month) to offset the costs of the improvements to connect the collection system in the City to the District's infrastructure.

For additional information regarding the transfer, visit us online at [www.crwwd.com/ridgefield](http://www.crwwd.com/ridgefield) or contact Heidi Rosenberg, Capital Program Manager, by telephone at (360) 993-8818 or by email at [hrosenberg@crwwd.com](mailto:hrosenberg@crwwd.com).

Visit us online at [www.CRWWD.com](http://www.CRWWD.com)

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## District Receives Clean Financial Audit from State of Washington

Earlier this year, the Washington State Auditor's Office released the official audit reports for the District. The audit period was from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012. There were no findings noted within either the independent financial or accountability audit reports. The financial audit affirmed once again that the District was in full compliance with all areas of financial reporting. The accountability audit concluded that the District complied with state law and District financial policies and procedures and had internal controls in place to effectively safeguard the public's money.

"The District takes pride in managing the District's resources in a responsible and transparent manner, which is a top priority to our customers," said Ken Andrews, District Finance Director.

Mr. Andrews and all District staff have much to be proud of as this is the 31st consecutive year that the District has received clean audit reports. In a letter from State Auditor Troy Kelly, that accompanied the Financial Audit Report, he stated, "The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards."

For more information and to view the audit reports, visit us online at [www.crwwd.com/about/financials.html](http://www.crwwd.com/about/financials.html). The State of Washington performs audits of state and local governments to promote accountability, integrity and openness in government.

## New Extended Vacancy Credit Program Available

The District has recently adopted an extended vacancy credit program for single-family residential customers. The program has been designed to assist customers during times of distress (fires, floods, etc.), remodels and other circumstances resulting in extended vacancies at least 90 days in length. If the residence is not occupied and there has been no water service, customers may be eligible for a partial credit to be applied towards their future monthly sewer rates. The extended vacancy credit is currently \$23.45/month.

For the complete program details and to find an application, please visit us online at [www.crwwd.com/extended-vacancy.html](http://www.crwwd.com/extended-vacancy.html), contact customer service via email at [finance@crwwd.com](mailto:finance@crwwd.com) or call (360) 750-5876.

## 2014 Budget Season

The District's annual budget planning has begun. The schedule of public meetings is listed below for your information and reference.

### 2014 Budget Schedule

- October 22: Budget workshop #1 will review operations and maintenance expenses
- November 12: Budget workshop #2 will review the forecast of proposed construction projects and revenues
- November 26: Budget public hearing
- December 10: Board action on 2014 budget

# Free Leaf Disposal

For Vancouver and Clark County residents only

Prevent street flooding — Don't place leaves in the street. Instead, use this coupon for free leaf disposal at:



<b>H &amp; H Wood Recyclers</b> 8401 NE 117th Avenue 360-892-2805	<b>West Van Materials Recovery Center</b> 6601 NW Old Lower River Road 360-737-1727	<b>McFarlane's Bark</b> 8806 NE 117th Avenue 360-892-6125
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(See reverse side for map of above locations and hours of operation.)

**With this Coupon**  
October 1 - December 20, 2013

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.

To redeem coupon, complete the following information:  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsored by:  
 

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