

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2006



Ratepayer News

NORTH HIGHLINE ANNEXATION INFORMATION

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Seattle and Burien are in the process of deciding which portions of the North Highline area they want to annex into their respective cities. Part of that process is analyzing the financial impacts of the annexation alternatives. Southwest Suburban Sewer District and ValVue Sewer District hired an independent financial consultant, FCS Group, to determine potential impacts of annexation. They calculated that the average monthly sewer bill for homes in the North Highline area would more than double (\$19.50 to \$41.01) if annexed by Seattle and if Seattle took over sewer service in the area.

Recently, the Seattle Mayor's Office recommended to the City Council that the sewer districts be given franchises which would allow the sewer districts to continue to operate and serve North Highline. As part of that agreement, the sewer districts may be required to pay a fee of 10% of sewer revenues from the area, which will be passed on to customers through a surcharge on their sewer bill. We are optimistic about being able to successfully negotiate an agreement with Seattle. Since the annexation vote will not occur until November, 2007, it is unlikely



COMMISSIONER BILL TRADE (FAR RIGHT) TALKS TO RATEPAYERS

customers in North Highline will see a Seattle surcharge until 2009.

At this time, it appears unlikely that other District customers will see any rate impacts caused by the North Highline annexation. Southwest Suburban will continue to treat the wastewater from the North Highline area and will receive that revenue regardless of whether Seattle or Southwest Suburban provide sewer service. If you have any questions concerning this article, please call General Manager Steve Sandelius at the District office.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE

District Office:

431 SW Ambaum Boulevard
Burien, Washington 98166
Phone: 206-244-9575
Fax: 206-433-8546

Forms can be downloaded from the District website to apply for the low income rate discount or to set up electronic bill-payer service:
www.swssd.com

You are invited to attend the monthly Board of Commissioners meetings at the District Office on the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Commissioners:

William Tracy, President
Tony Genzale, Vice-President
Scott Hilsen, Secretary

DISTRICT TO ACCEPT DEBIT & CREDIT CARDS

Southwest Suburban Sewer District will now accept VISA and Mastercharge debit and credit cards on residential sewer bills. Credit card payments can be made at the District office or over the telephone. At this time we cannot accept payment through the District's website. The credit card policy was recently adopted by the Board of

Commissioners in response to numerous ratepayer requests.

Customers may also sign up for an automatic electronic payment by picking up the application at the District office or by downloading it from the website at www.swssd.com. The payment will then be automatically withdrawn from the specified bank account each billing period.

Another billing change that went into effect this year is that the District will no longer bill residential tenants. Sewer bills will be sent to the owner of residences only. If the sewer bill is going to a tenant at this time, the bill will go into the name of the owner when the current tenant moves out of the property.

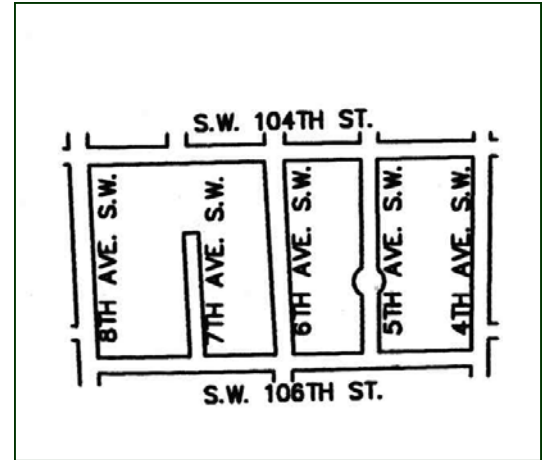
YOUR SEWER DOLLARS AT WORK

MARIAN'S PARK PIPE REHABILITATION

The contract for Marian's Park Pipe Rehabilitation Project was awarded to Buno Construction at a cost of \$680,000.00. Sixty years of use has caused the original concrete pipes to deteriorate. Most of the old concrete sewer lines were installed in 1947 and 1948. The new plastic pipe is designed to have a life expectancy that far exceeds the original concrete pipe.

A total of 3,220 lineal feet of sewer main line will be replaced. In addition, lateral lines to the properties will be replaced and manholes will either be replaced or rehabilitated. The entire project is scheduled to be completed in 45 days with an overlay following in Spring of 2007.

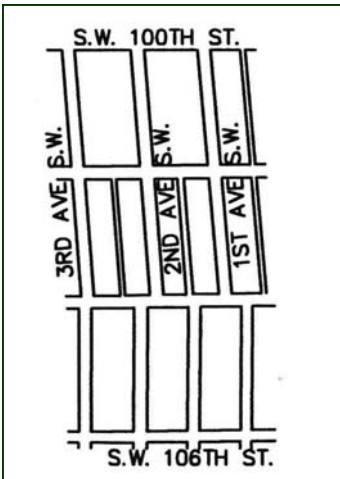
The construction schedule called for a September 18th start, with an open cut along SW 106th St. In addition to open cutting, the District will utilize two trenchless methods: pipe bursting and pipe lining known as Cure-in-Place Piping. The two trenchless methods will be utilized throughout most of the project area.



EVERGREEN HEIGHTS PROJECT

The District is trying to acquire a \$325,000.00 grant from the Community Development Block Grant Program to partially fund the Evergreen Heights Project located in the Top Hat area. The District's project cost is estimated at \$1.3 million dollars and funding will alleviate some of the cost which is passed along to property owners. The Evergreen Heights area sits adjacent to King County Housing Authority's Greenbridge Project and consists of 110 residents all on septic systems, many failing. The area is similar to an island in that it is surrounded by sewers. Lying within a critical aquifer recharge area, failing septic systems subject the aquifer to contamination.

The project will be divided into two phases and constructed over a 2-3 year period. The first phase will begin in January 2007 with completion by the end of the year. This phase will involve approximately 3100 lineal feet of new sewer main and 32 manholes to serve 42 properties. The Consortium's recommendation for block grant funding is due this fall.



CHELSEA PARK PIPE REHABILITATION

The District recently requested engineering proposals for a pipe rehabilitation project in the Chelsea Park area. The walls of the concrete sewer pipe have become thin and brittle and infiltration and inflow surcharges the lines during heavy rain events.

Four proposals were reviewed, with ingenuity weighing heavily in the decision. The engineering project was awarded to Roth Hill; their proposal was not only the lowest but utilized ingenuity that enabled what was originally a two year project to be completed in one year. They propose to rehabilitate a majority of the project utilizing trenchless methods.

The District will pay for the project with monies received through a Public Works Trust Fund Loan, a low interest loan designed for rehabilitation projects. The project is currently in design and will begin sometime in the Spring of 2007.

