

SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN SEWER DISTRICT

FEBRUARY 2007



Ratepayer News

2007 SEWER DISTRICT AGENDA

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The Board of Commissioners determined that there will be no sewer rate increase in 2007. A number of sewer rehabilitation projects are in various stages of completion in the District.

The District is currently finishing up the Marian's Park Rehabilitation Project in the White Center area with restoration. The project went according to schedule and came in on budget.

The Crescent Beach District Project was completed and accepted in November. Connections to the newly installed line are currently in progress.

The Evergreen Heights District Project, located

in the Top Hat area, is currently in the design phase. The District was granted \$310,000.00 in Community Development Block Grant funding to assist the low-income residents with their connection charges. The project will be bid in late Spring with construction completion before the end of 2007.

The Chelsea Park Rehabilitation Project, located between SW 136th Street and SW 139th Street east of Ambaum Blvd. SW, is currently in design. This project has been split into two phases; open cut to make 28 repairs and Cured-in-Place piping. The estimated cost of the total project is \$3,000,000.00. This project will begin in 2007 with completion in 2008.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON REVERSE SIDE

District Office:

431 SW Ambaum Boulevard
Burien, Washington 98166
Phone: 206-244-9575
Fax: 206-433-8546
Emergency Phone: 206-726-2732

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
Scott Hilsen, Vice-President
Tony Genzale, Secretary

DISTRICT RECEIVES PATRIOT AWARD

SWSSD General Manager Steve Sandelius and Miller Creek Treatment Plant Supervisor Tim Berge were the recipients of "Patriot" awards from Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve (ESGR), a Department of Defense organization. The awards were presented at the January 9, 2007 Board of Commissioners meeting by Larry Kirchner, Co-Chair of King County ESGR. Mr. Kirchner states, "I think it is really important for us to support our military members and it is always gratifying to have service members recognize those whom they feel are making a difference by assuring them that their job and family are taken care of while they are gone."

The awards are the result of a nomination made by District



Top, l to r: Miller Creek Treatment Plant Supervisor Tim Berge, General Manager Steve Sandelius. Bottom, l to r: Commissioners Scott Hilsen, Bill Tracy, and Tony Genzale.

employee Senior Operator Scott Delibero. Mr. Delibero is currently serving in Iraq with his Naval Reserve unit. Another District employee, Treatment Plant Operator Sean Sherwood, is serving in Afghanistan with the National Guard.

The ESGR was established in 1972 to promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve component members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

A “CALL US FIRST” POLICY CAN SAVE YOU A LOT OF MONEY

Sewer customers seldom think of calling their sewer district when they have a plumbing problem. Instead they go to the yellow pages and call the first plumber that answers the phone. There are plumbers who are happy to respond to emergency calls because it may mean a desperate customer is willing to pay whatever it takes to get the problem fixed. Some plumbers have been known to charge as much as 20 times the normal repair rates to remedy emergency sewer repairs.

“Call Us First” to avoid unnecessary repairs. Your plumbing is not always the problem. Sometimes the problems are in the road, which may be our responsibility. We have heard of customers paying a plumber as much as \$18,000 to replace a side sewer that did not need to be replaced. We have equipment that can inspect the mainline, the six-inch stub and even your side sewer to determine what the problem is and where it is located.



We have a list of registered “Side Sewer Contractors” that have registered with the District and have done acceptable work in the past. We recommend getting a minimum of three bids for any repair job. This simple process may save you thousands of dollars. If you “Call Us First” so that we can help you identify where your problem is, you will save money because the contractors will know where to dig and what the problem is.

“Call Us First” so that we can determine if we are responsible for the backup in your plumbing. Sometimes plumbers charge for services when the problem is our



District personnel are available to assist you with your sewer problems. Pictured above, l to r: Steve Sandelius, Jodie Baker, and Adam Gallion.

responsibility.

Please “Call Us First!” We can be reached at 206-244-9575 between the hours of 7:30 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Our emergency number for after hours and weekend calls is 206-726-2732. We have employees on-call 24 hours a day to answer emergency calls and questions.

“Call Us First” as soon as you start having a problem. A sewer cleaning company or plumber cannot help you if our mainline is backing up into your house and may cause more damage to your house by delaying our involvement.

Remember, we are your sewer district, “Call Us First”.

GREASE PROGRAM UPDATE

In January 2005, the District established a FOG Policy, (Fats, Oils and Grease), for our commercial customers. Under the new policy, all commercial entities discharging fats, oils or grease to the sewer system must install a grease trap or grease interceptor to assist with keeping our sewer lines from plugging. The FOG policy will aid in keeping the sewer rates low as plugged lines have cost rate payers in the thousands of dollars for repair and maintenance.

Grease is a problem that affects everyone in our sewer district, *not just the commercial customers*. We want to remind our residential customers that even very small amounts of grease from washing dishes or just dumping it down the drain enter the sewer lines and begin to build up on the walls of the sewer pipes causing blockages that can back-up in homes and businesses. **Grease cannot be diluted with hot water.** As the grease cools in the sewer lines, it hardens clinging to the wall of the pipe.

To date we have had good response from our commercial rate payers. Our target is to have grease traps or grease interceptors installed in all of our commercial customers facilities, that generate fats, oils or grease by the end of this year.

Residential customers can help by disposing of fats, oils or grease in the garbage by wiping the cooking utensil with a paper towel prior to washing.

Remember, **grease affects all of our rate payers**. If you think your facility may need a grease trap or grease interceptor, contact Adam Gallion or Jodie Baker for information and assistance.