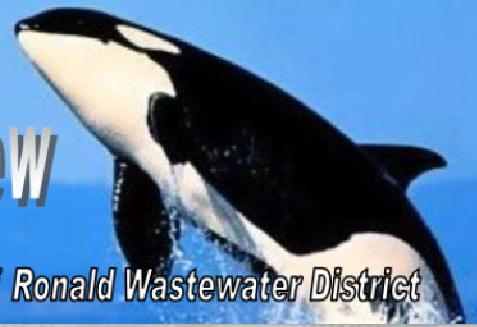


Ronald Wastewater Review



A quarterly publication of news and information for customers of Ronald Wastewater District

- Inside This Issue**
- Open House
 - Don't Flush Trouble
 - Commissioners Put Ratepayers First
 - Echo Lake Project
 - News From Our Utility Partner

June 2011

Volume 8 Issue 2



Ronald Wastewater District will be having an Open House on Saturday, August 27th, 2011 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM.

Everyone is welcome and encouraged to stop by. There be will staff on hand to provide information on District operations and neighborhood projects, give out side sewer maps, and answer any questions you may have.

There will also be ratepayer appreciation gift bags, t-shirts, free hot dogs, crafts for the kids, tours of District facilities, demonstrations of District maintenance equipment, and more.

District Commissioners will also be available to meet with ratepayers to answer questions and discuss district policy and projects.

It will be a great time for all, and we hope to see you there.

District Staff Win 1st Place at WWCPA Sewer Maint. School

District Maintenance Technicians Jason Sharpe and Marc Frye won 1st Place in the Maintenance Tool Contest at the annual Sewer Maintenance School held in May for their design and construction of a "Drop Guide". The tool assists in the cleaning of certain types of manholes and mainlines by eliminating dangerous and costly entries into the manholes, prevents damage to equipment, and saves ratepayer's money in the process. Congratulations Marc and Jason!



Lind Wadekamper Carroll

Ronald Wastewater District Commissioners Put the Ratepayer First

There are three elected commissioners on the Board, and each serves a staggered six-year term.

How do they put you, the ratepayer, first?

You have a voice in the setting of the rate. Board meetings are open to all. They are held at 6:00 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at the District's office, 17505 Linden Ave N. Occasionally they are offered at a different time. Please see our website for current meeting times, or call ahead of time to confirm the next meeting at (206) 546-2494. Express yourself!

You can have a say in how your utility is operated. If you are a registered voter residing in the District, you too can run for the position of Commissioner. If you'd rather have a say in another way, please contact your elected Commissioners or the District's General Manager. Each Commissioner's email is located on our website at www.ronaldwastewater.org

Your Commissioners serve the ratepayers. The Commissioners annually review the rate to determine if a rate increase is necessary. Two of your elected Commissioners are on a fixed income; one has experienced a pay cut. All three know that right now times are tough.

DON'T FLUSH TROUBLE

Since we spend so much time on the toilet we are bound to lose more than just our time. Seven million cell phones are dropped in the toilet every year. People have purposefully and accidentally flushed away things like goldfish, false teeth, socks, underwear, bras, shirts, shoes, mice, hamsters, toy cars, action figures, Barbie dolls, toothbrushes, and whole rolls of toilet paper. Toilet paper and human waste are the only things that should be put in the toilet. All other materials can cause blockages before they break down. Don't use the toilet, sink, or garbage disposal as a trash can; instead, put garbage in the trash to avoid damaging sewer back-ups. If wipes, rags, and other flushed materials make it to the larger collection system throughout your neighborhoods, they can back up sewer collection lines and pump stations and cause financially and environmentally costly sewer spills. Remember, don't flush trouble! Visit www.ronaldwastewater.org for more information or call our office at (206) 546-2494.



Ronald Wastewater District completes Echo Lake Sewer Trunk Line Replacement Project.

Echo Lake is environmentally safer now that a large capacity, high density polyethylene (HDPE) sanitary sewer pipe has been installed around the west and north sides of the lake by Ronald Wastewater District (RWD).



In anticipation of future growth and higher densities in the south Echo Lake area, and in keeping with the District's role as an environmental steward, RWD decided in 2010 to increase the carrying capacity and reliability of the aged sanitary sewer lines around the lake. The new, larger lines will ensure environmental protection for Echo Lake, provide sanitary sewage carrying capacity for future development and growth, and thereby help to create an economically vibrant community in the Echo Lake area.

CHS Engineers, LLC presented multiple options to increase the carrying capacity of the sanitary sewer lines as part of the pre-design work. Other options included the installation of a new sewage lift station and forcemain or the installation of new sanitary sewer lines on adjacent streets. Variations of these two basic plans were explored. Adding to the complexity of the project was the fact that the Echo Cove Condominiums were built over portions of the sanitary sewer line. These portions of line were sliplined, thereby significantly extending the lines' useful lives. In addition, a new 18 inch diameter sanitary sewer line was installed around the Echo Cove Condominiums. Because of the excessive depth of parts of this line, ductile iron pipe was installed in addition to polyvinylchloride (PVC) pipe which is normally used. The least expensive option to replace the remainder of the existing Echo Lake Trunk line was to pipeburst and replace it with HDPE 18 inch pipe.

In the summer of 2010, Buno Construction was awarded a contract to replace the 14 inch diameter asbestos-cement sanitary sewer line around Echo Lake. Buno's total bid price plus change requests was \$902,450. Buno Construction was also the low bidder on the Echo Cove Bypass Line at \$490,800. The developer of the new apartments and YMCA at the south end of Echo Lake increased the size of the sanitary sewer lines on their site as part of their project.

The Echo Cove Bypass project was completed in January 2011 at a final cost of approximately \$380,300 – \$110,500 under bid! This was the result of superb engineering by CHS Engineers, LLC and expert construction by Buno Construction. In fact, the Echo Cove Bypass project has been submitted to the Seattle Section of the American Society of Civil Engineers as a "2010-11 Local Outstanding Civil Engineering Achievement Award" candidate!

The Echo Lake Trunk Replacement project was recently completed at a cost of \$817,117 – \$85,333 below bid amounts! Thoughtful engineering from the start of the project, precise and efficient construction during the project, and a sharp eye for potential savings by both the engineer and contractor produced an excellent sanitary sewer line project along with remarkable savings.

The Board of Commissioners is proud of the success of this project. Good cooperation and communication between the District, its consulting engineer, and contractor resulted in a success for the ratepayers of RWD. For 60 years, Ronald Wastewater District has been your partner in environmental stewardship. With your support, we'll continue to provide you with the best sanitary sewer service possible, now and into the future.



News from the Board President

GOOD MONEY MANGEMENT

Reprinted with permission from Shoreline Water District

Every day there seems to be a new story involving big government increasing taxes, spending money for "special interest needs", or simply complaining that they don't have enough of YOUR money. It's no surprise that citizens are asking more questions about where their money goes and what benefit they are receiving.

The answer you'll get from Shoreline Water District is easy – it all goes toward your water system. There are no special pet projects or politically attractive special interest programs. We do one thing only, and we do it very well: provide you with safe drinking water that meets or exceeds all state and federal requirements.

And we've been doing it for over 80 years! Even in years when it seemed other governments were adding staff and/or new expensive programs, we have been fiscally responsible. Long before the current economic downturn, the number of District staff decreased from 16 to our current 13. Most of our pipes and other infrastructure have a remaining life span of at least 50 years. Our water rates are reviewed regularly to ensure that the rates not only cover the costs but also relay the costs equitably among different property types. We were frugal before being frugal was cool.

At Shoreline Water District, we treat your money like it is our own – carefully and responsibly – and we're proud to do so.

Ron Ricker
President
Board of Commissioners
Shoreline Water District
www.shorelinewater.org