

Ronald Wastewater Review



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

Inside This Issue

- What's Special to You?
- Sound Advice
- Test Your Knowledge
- State of the Cities
- District Pays Off Debt

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Sound Advice

Shoreline Residents - What's Special to You?



Many people, places, and things are special to us. A loved one or a favorite vacation spot. What's special to you here in Shoreline? How about the Special Districts that serve you in many different ways.

There is Shoreline School District that educates our young ones for a successful future.

There is Shoreline Water District that makes sure those young ones (and us older ones) have water to drink, to cook with, to clean with, and to enjoy life with.

There is Shoreline Fire Department that uses that water to put out fires.

There is Ronald Wastewater District that helps conserve our environmental resources by making sure the sewage from the schools, our homes, and all the other buildings in the city is transported to the treatment plants all day, every day without problems.

What makes these Special Districts more special is that they focus on performing one task and they do it well. The money we pay these Special Purpose Districts is used to educate our children, provide us with clean water, keep us safe, and healthy.

What could be more special than that!

Our Puget Sound is in trouble and information is emerging about the environmental impact of the natural and synthetic chemicals people use daily and dispose of down their drains and toilets.

Among the most disturbing of the chemicals now being detected in the environment are common prescription medicines. The chemicals found in many medications can pass through our sewage treatment process and end up in the Sound. It only takes a miniscule amount of these toxins to kill or alter sensitive aquatic organisms and possibly wipe out an essential link in the Puget Sound food chain.



Please don't flush medicines, instead ask your pharmacy if it has a take-back program or place them in the trash in a sealed container, out of reach of children and pets.

District Receives Clean Financial Reports Again From the Washington State Auditor's Office

The State Auditor's Office once again reported Ronald Wastewater District to be financially sound and strong. The Auditor's reports can be found on our website or on the State Auditor's Website.

Test Your District Knowledge

Answers on the back of this newsletter

- When was Ronald Wastewater District formed?*
- How many elected Commissioners are on the District's Board?*
- Where is the sewage from the District treated?*

www.ronaldwastewater.org



June is Orca Awareness Month!

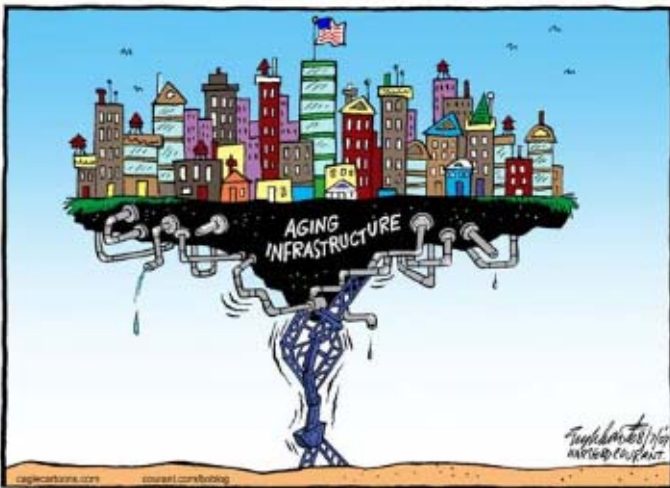


Our Southern Resident Orcas are endangered as a result of a wide variety of activities including declining salmon runs, toxic pollution and boat traffic.

Orca Month is meant to aid in their recovery by educating the public and taking action to improve conditions for the survival of the Southern Resident Orcas.

For more information on how you can help improve Puget Sound visit People for Puget Sound at www.pugetsound.org

AWC Issues "State of the Cities, 2011 Report, An update on city infrastructure systems."



The Association of Washington Cities (AWC) has released its 2011 Report on city owned infrastructure, and the situation is dire.

Ronald Wastewater District is in excellent financial health with a well maintained and functioning sanitary sewer system. We are using our financial reserves now when use of that money gets more work done for less and puts people to work.

Special purpose water/sewer districts are weathering the storm of this economic downturn. They are focused on providing water and wastewater services. While cities can and do tax their sewer and water utilities to raise money for their general fund, special purpose districts do not have the authority to tax. We must set our rates to pay the cost to provide the service.

The ratepayers of Ronald Wastewater District can be confident that their elected Board of Commissioners put the ratepayers' interests first by using ratepayer money wisely and for its intended purpose: to own, build, and maintain a sanitary sewer system that contributes to a clean environment and a vibrant and growing community.

District Saves Money By Paying Off Debt

The Ronald Wastewater District Commissioners have decided to use available cash to payoff the District's 2001 Sewer Revenue Bonds. The 2001 Sewer Revenue Bonds had outstanding interest rates that ranged from 4.30% to 5.00%.

By paying off the debt, the District is saving \$670,000 over the remaining ten years of the loan!

According to Board President Arthur Wadekamper, the District had considered refinancing the Bonds. "Right now the savings are much greater when debt can be paid off. Currently, the King County Investment Pool rates are very low, so it made more sense to payoff the higher interest cost debt with available cash."

Board Vice President Brian Carroll, a CPA, explained that "the District now has little debt and is in a very strong financial position compared to other water and sewer districts and municipal utility systems."

If the Commissioners decide to issue bonds in the future, the District will likely achieve a higher bond rating grade and obtain a lower interest rate as a result of paying off the 2001 Bonds. This will result in a lower interest cost to the ratepayers of Ronald Wastewater District. Any future money from a bond sale could be for the replacement of aging sewer pipes, to keep the District's financial reserves intact, or to fund other capital expenditures.

Ronald Wastewater District has been providing sewer service for 60 years.

We are your partner in environmental stewardship.

Test Your District Knowledge Answers

- The District was formed by petition and election in 1951.*
- There are 3 elected Commissioners on the District Board.*
- King County's West Point Treatment Plant and the City of Edmonds Treatment Plant.*



How did you do? Write to us with a sewer question you may have or visit our website at www.ronaldwastewater.org for more information.

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