



Ronald Wastewater Review

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

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Special Purpose Water/ Sewer Districts:

What Makes Them Special?

(Part 2 of an article from The Washington Association of Water and Sewer Districts' Newsletter PIPELINE Volume 9 Issue 4 April 2004)
Governance:

Like all special districts, the governance and policy direction is provided by an elected body of commissioners. A water/sewer district may have three, five, or seven commissioners. Each must be a resident of the corporate area served by the district, and must be a registered voter residing within the corporate boundaries of the district but a commissioner is not required to be a customer.

Service Areas :

Water/sewer districts are given great latitude in the area of where they provide service. A district may provide utility services both in unincorporated county as well as incorporated cities and towns. They are also authorized to serve more than one town or county. There are some special purpose Water/sewer districts serving 7, 8, even 9 different cities and more than one county.

This authority to serve multiple jurisdictions has allowed water/sewer districts to become, especially in urban areas, large regional purveyors. Many districts far exceed the size of the cities they serve. Other types of special districts are usually more confined in the areas they are allowed to serve. PUDs for example may only serve in the county in which they are created.

Sewers Provided District wide

On Thursday, May 18 representatives from Ronald Wastewater District, the City of



Shoreline, The Public Works Trust Fund, CHS Engineers, LLC, Rosenblume and Associates, and residents of the areas took part in a ribbon cutting ceremony that opened the way for previously unsewered areas in the District to connect to the new sewer system. A recently completed \$1 million dollar sewer mainline installation project makes it possible for 43 homes presently served by septic systems, to take advantage of a ½ % loan arrangement with the District and connect their home to the new sewer system. More information is available at the District office.

There Is No Grace Period....For our residential customers the billing cycle has been extended from 45 to 60 days. Payments are due in our office by the last business day of the month due. A late charge will be automatically posted to your account after the last business day of the month due. If you are currently using a bill pay service through your bank, verify the date they are sending payment to the district. Keep in mind that it may take 5 - 7 business days to arrive at our office.

You may have to adjust the payment schedule with your banking institution.



Manhole Inspection



Most people know that the manholes they see in city streets and rights-of-way provide access to a utility company’s underground facilities. Manholes provide access to storm and sanitary sewer pipelines and water, electric and telephone vaults. But did you know that one of the three primary maintenance tasks for maintaining an efficient and effective sanitary sewer collection system is routine inspection of these manholes?

District personnel routinely inspect each of the system’s 4,572 manholes every year. These manholes provide the only visible means of keeping an eye on the system as a whole. In addition to inspecting for physical defects such as cracks in the concrete, loose bricks and broken lids. District personnel also look at actual sewer flow in the pipeline. Speed, color and depth of the sewer flows through a manhole can provide extremely useful information that tells us how the system is operating. For example, dark colored sewer flows indicates that a septic condition exists due to a partial blockage in that section of pipeline. Personnel noting this condition will call a cleaning crew to the location to clear the blockage before a sewer backup or overflow results.

The District has many manholes that are located off the right-of-way in unmaintained easements and easements running through residents’ yards. These manholes must also be inspected and District personnel will always try to make contact with the homeowner before entering the property.



Your Questions ??????????????

Some of our customers have inquired about the cost of our new multi-color billing forms and the glossy color newsletters. They remark, “I am concerned that the relatively higher cost of these materials may be an inappropriate use of ratepayer’s funding.” The cost to the District to use an outside printer is \$0.500 per piece including postage; the District’s cost was \$0.522. The cost to print the newsletter is \$0.04 each whether printed in black and white on regular paper or in color on glossy paper. Because the newsletter is mailed with the sewer bill, there is no added postage. The District feels it is important to establish and maintain good communication with our ratepayers. A regular quarterly newsletter and the web site are good ways to do this. We thank you for the suggestions.