



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 3 of an article from The Washington Association of Water and Sewer Districts' Newsletter PIPELINE Volume 9 Issue 4 April 2004)

Special Districts and GMA:

The Growth Management Act (GMA) was passed in the early 1990s and special districts, which were originally included in the GMA, were removed at the request of port districts. This lack of specific reference in the GMA has led many since passage of the legislation to believe that water/sewer districts do not plan.

In fact the requirement for water/sewer districts to prepare comprehensive plans predates the creation of the GMA. Title 57 of the Revised Code of Washington does require that each district preparing a comprehensive water plan or sewer plan and submit it to the cities in which they serve as well as the counties they are located in. These general governments are to review the district's plan to make sure it conforms to the cities or county's growth management plan and is capable of meeting future economic and growth needs of the cities or county in the area served by the district.

Security:

Since the events of September 11, 2001 the responsibilities of water/sewer districts have changed in regard to how we protect our systems. Like all levels of government and private enterprise, water/ sewer districts have had to rethink how they operate, how their systems are engineered, how access by employees and the public is controlled, and how soon the public is informed of events occurring to the utility.

We no longer can disregard events that use to be considered vandalism or pranks. Each entry to a system facility, each truck connected to a hydrant, each access to a storage facility must be considered seriously and responded to with great deliberation to insure we protect our employees as well as the public.

Special purpose water/sewer districts are no longer the entities they used to be. They are now better managed, better connected to the public and the other governments around them, and moving the level of service to a much higher degree than in decades past. We can be proud that district elected officials generally know more about the operation and governance needs of their utilities than most of their city and county counterparts.

A next step that many districts need to take is to convey information on how we are structured, how we are managed, how we operate, and the great efficiency and professionalism with which we do these things. Each district has been created by, funded by, and supported by the customers (owners) of the district.

By banding together, these owners have provided water and wastewater services which they could not have provided for themselves acting alone. As a result, property values have increased, fire insurance costs have declined, and they have not had to pay utility taxes to fund other government operations.

The Dark Days of Winter

As the Fall and Winter seasons approach, drivers should be reminded that the hours of daylight will start getting shorter.. As darkness will last longer in the morning and start earlier in the afternoon, it will be more difficult to see those who are working in the street. Drivers approaching areas where there is work activity in the street should slow down and look for traffic diversions as well as for workers and pedestrians trying to maneuver through the traffic cones and barrels. While road projects are sometimes troublesome and inconvenient, they are a fact of life. A way the public can make the life of these projects as short as possible is to slow down, be alert, and follow the traffic directions allowing everybody to go about their business in a safe and sane manner.

Sewer Problems?

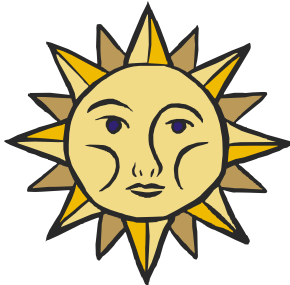
You are having sewer problems, so what do you do? If you are not using any water at all and sewer water is continuously flowing into your house, call the District immediately at 206-546-2494.

If water will not drain or drains very slowly, call a plumber or a sewer and drain cleaning service. The majority of sewer problems are caused by tree roots or debris that is blocking the side sewer pipe between your house and the District's main lines in the street. The plumber or drain cleaning service will be able to rod or "snake" your side sewer pipe to clear the debris or roots and allow the water to flow again.

After the plumber or drain cleaning service has opened the pipe, call the District at 206-546-2494. District personnel will be happy to come to your home and provide suggestions and/or advice on what additional steps could be taken to maintain your side sewer pipe. We strongly recommend that you call the District before you decide to dig up or otherwise repair the pipeline.



Who is Ronald?



Over the years, many customers have wondered about our name. Some have jokingly inquired if the Ronald Wastewater District was named after a famous clown. People not familiar with the Shoreline area have inquired if we were located east of the mountains. Our name comes from Judge James T. Ronald, one of King County's early distinguished citizens and owner of a large amount of property in what is now the City of Shoreline.

James T. Ronald was born in Missouri in 1855. From a large farming family, he was the first to attend college. After graduating he moved to California where he taught school and apprenticed with an attorney. After passing the state bar examination he moved with his family to Seattle in 1882 where he built a cabin on Queen Anne Hill.

Between 1883 and 1892 Mr. Ronald served as Deputy District Attorney for King County, and U.S. District Attorney for King, Kitsap, and Snohomish Counties. In 1892 he was elected Mayor of Seattle and in 1909 was appointed to the King County Superior Court. He served on the bench for forty years as well as serving on the Seattle School Board and the University of Washington Board of Regents.

During his years as an attorney, Judge Ronald was paid in land for his legal services by a client. He donated part of that land for the community school which is now the Shoreline Historical Museum and later convinced the County Commissioners to locate a highway through this area giving the right of way through his property for that road Aurora Avenue North, U.S. Highway 99.

Judge James T. Ronald died in 1950 leaving a significant legacy to Shoreline and King County.

Ronald Wastewater District

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