

# UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

# UBSD



# NEWS

JULY 2014

## NO PROPERTY TAX FOR UBSD

Did you know that for the last 20 years the Upper Blue Sanitation District has operated and constructed facilities without the use of a property tax? It's true! The Board of Directors and the Staff are committed to providing the highest levels of service and facilities through the use of fees such as plant investment fees (PIF) and monthly service fees.

The District's philosophy of operating more like a business has paid off in the fact that we have been able to actually decrease the size of our government and pass those savings on to the customer. Keeping District administration services small while focusing on cross-training all field operators has allowed for an efficient, effective operation. This philosophy has allowed reduction in the number of District employees during a period of time that our facility capacity has more than doubled. The results: savings passed on to the customer.

## SUMP PUMPS ARE FORBIDDEN

In the Spring of every year we experience a high water table due to the run off. During this time we have problems with ground water entering our system resulting in an overload to our treatment facilities. We have crews working every day for months to locate and fix the problems. But in many cases there are problems coming from a customer's property. Many times this is due to leaky service lines, and in other cases we have detected the operation of a sump pump draining crawl spaces into the service line. We can detect this type of illegal discharge with the use of a motorized camera that inspects the inside of our pipes.

This type of discharge is illegal under our Rules and Regulations because of the stress that it creates in our treatment plants. If we find a possible infraction we will send a notice for you to disconnect the illegal connection. If you do not think that you have a sump pump we would be happy to conduct an on-site inspection.

## SPRING ELECTION CANCELLED

The Board of Directors cancelled the Spring election due to the lack of candidates running for the three open positions. The three candidates that did apply were deemed elected and were sworn in at the May 2014 regular meeting. Two returning Board Members are Allyn Mosher and Barrie Stimson. We welcome Patricia Theobald as the third Board Member.

## DISTRICT TRANSPARENCY NOTICE AND MEETING SCHEDULE

The District annually posts its Transparency Notice on the District's web site and at the administration office. This Notice outlines the District's contacts, meeting schedules, director information and election information. The Notice can be viewed at [www.ubsd.org](http://www.ubsd.org).

Meetings of the Board of Directors are held at 5:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month with a work session preceding each meeting. The meetings are conducted at the District's administration office which is located at 1605 Airport Road, Breckenridge and are open to the public.

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

**Mike Turek, President**

**Barrie Stimson, Vice President**

**Allyn Mosher, Secretary/  
Treasurer**

**Ken Trausch**

**Patricia Theobald**

**Andrew Carlberg,**

**District Manager**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS CONSIDERS A RATE  
INCREASE FOR 2015**

The Board has held the rates the same for the last three years due to increases in efficiencies. With the re-commissioning of the Iowa Hill Facility and increased regulatory requirements the Board of Directors must consider a rate increase in 2015. The Board will consider increasing the monthly service rate by \$3/qtr/sfe and a 2%-3% increase in the Plant Investment Fee. The Board will be reviewing these proposed increases as they review the 2015 draft budget beginning in September. Public comment is welcome.

**HOW IS MY SEWER BILL CALCULATED?**

A common question we receive is the method by which a sewer bill is calculated. First, all building units, either residential or commercial are based on a "single family equivalent," or "SFE." An SFE is defined as "the average characteristics of a home of a single family in a permanent residence in the District." Based on flow studies, a single family home contributes a peak flow of 300 gallons per day/per SFE, and this is the base upon which the District evaluates all other uses. For the purposes of determining the amount of SFEs assigned to residential units, the District uses the number of bedrooms and bathrooms contained in the unit. For instance, in a detached, single family home 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms equal one SFE. If the number of bedrooms and bathrooms increase, there is a resulting increase in the amount of SFEs assigned to the home. The amount of calculated SFEs is then multiplied by \$78 which is the current cost per SFE to equal your quarterly sewer charge. A detailed breakdown of SFE calculations can be found on the District's web site at [www.ubsd.org](http://www.ubsd.org).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Sewer backups due to failure of the District's main line are rare, but do occur. Usually the backup is due to a failure of the property's service line. Therefore, we recommend contacting a plumbing contractor initially. However, if there is concern that the problem is more than a failed service line, such as an overflow, then the best action is to contact the District by calling the emergency response phone. That number is **970-418-6073**. If for some reason that number does not reply, contact Summit County Dispatch at **970-668-8600**; they have a complete list of contact information.

**BILLING MADE SIMPLE!**

The District bills for service fees at the first of each quarter (January, April, July and October). The bill is due upon receipt, but the District accepts payment until the last day of the month for which the bill went out. If after the last day payment is not received, a reminder letter is sent advising that a 1% interest penalty will be added to the balance due if payment is not received within 15 days. If the account is still past due at the end of the next month, then additional charges and penalties will be added with the possibility of a lien filed on the property. A more detailed description is located on the back of the billing statement.

This is not a course the District likes to take and offers several suggestions. First, sign up for automatic payment or ACH. A form can be found at [www.ubsd.org](http://www.ubsd.org) and ensures payment is received on time. Second, if you have your bank issuing a check we recommend that you have the check issued at least 1-1/2 weeks before the end of the month. This should allow the bank enough time to process the check so that the payment arrives on time. If you have any questions, please contact the District's administration office at 970-453-2723.

**UPPER BLUE  
SANITATION DISTRICT**

TELEPHONE: 970-453-2723

FAX: 970-453-2013

[WWW.UBSD.ORG](http://WWW.UBSD.ORG)

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**PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND  
ENVIRONMENT FOR  
OVER 40 YEARS**