

UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

UBSD

NEWS



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

JANUARY 2014

BOARD ADOPTS 2014 BUDGET

IT'S A THREE-PEAT!! The District has kept rates the same for the past three years— No Increases! In addition, the Board of Directors continues funding District operations without the need of property taxes as a source of revenue. The Board has continually operated with the philosophy of growth paying 100% of its own way and now has extended that direction well into the future.

Careful implementation of the 10-year Capital and Financial Master Plan has ensured that customers through monthly service fees, will only pay for the operation, maintenance and repair of the District's facilities without the use of taxes.

The current rates are as follows:

Monthly Service: \$26/month/SFE, billed quarterly

Plant Investment Fee: \$11,584.00/SFE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

For the past 12 years it has been my great good fortune and honor to represent the constituents and customers of the Upper Blue Sanitation District on the District's Board of Directors. Term limitations will not allow me to run again for this office, so this is the last time I will be addressing you in the Newsletter. Thanks to the great staff, employees, and previous Boards of the Upper Blue Sanitation District, my time has been largely just "staying the course." But we have also conquered some great challenges and accomplished some monumental undertakings during those 12 years. Most of the Town of Blue River, and large portions of the County have been included to the District. We changed the name of the District to reflect those inclusions. In those areas, and in the Town of Breckenridge, miles of collection system have been added. In the South Blue area, we de-commissioned several treatment Plants and modified the collection system to all go to the expanded South Blue Treatment Plant. An expansion of the Farmer's Korner Treatment Plant, sized to accommodate all the future growth that the planners expect, was designed, built and is running smoothly. That project may well have been the largest public works project in Summit County history, and was finished not only under budget, but under the contract amount.

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MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Robin Theobald, President

Michael Turek, Vice President

Allyn Mosher, Secretary

Ken Trausch

Barrie Stimson

Andrew Carlberg,

District Manager

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.

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 at 1605 Airport Road, Breckenridge and are open to the public.

SEWER SERVICE FOR BLUE RIVER BILLING MADE SIMPLE!

The Board of Directors is considering the continued extension of sewer service to areas in the Town of Blue River that are experiencing a high rate of septic system failures. The first three phases in Blue River have been extremely successful in protecting the surface and ground water from being contaminated. Letters will be sent to property owners in the Blue

Rock Springs and Leap Year subdivisions requesting their interest in connection. If there is sufficient positive response the District will finalize the design by mid-February. The construction bid process will be conducted March through April, with construction to begin in July. If you have any questions please contact the Administration Office at 970-453-2723.

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 then the account will be considered late and a 1% interest charge will be applied. 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 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 questions, please contact the District's Administration Office at 970-453-2723.

SPRING ELECTION

The District will be conducting its biennial election on May 8, 2014. The purpose of the election will be to select three Board members. To be eligible to vote in the election the requirements are: registered to vote in the State of Colorado and either a property owner or a resident within the District 22 days prior to the May 8, 2014 election. You can review additional information on the District's web site at www.ubsd.org.

ARE YOU WATCHING YOUR HOME?

Have you ever wondered how you would deal with a sewer backup into your home or condo? Did you know that sanitation districts generally do not have and cannot get backup insurance? So how can property owners protect themselves? First, one must realize that because of the size of the District we cannot be everywhere at once. While the District has an aggressive maintenance schedule, failures and blockages can occur. Most of the time it is the homeowner that notifies us of problems at which time we respond immediately. Because we rely on homeowners we encourage you to ensure that your property is adequately monitored if you have a second home or you are on vacation. Friends, neighbors or property management companies are usually used for monitoring.

Additionally we strongly encourage homeowners to add backup insurance to their homeowners policy. Contact your insurance carrier to see if they offer such coverage. This insurance is inexpensive when compared to not having coverage and paying the costs yourself. The insurance costs approximately \$30 per year for a single family home and approximately \$15 per year for a condo. The coverage is specifically for damage occurring from surcharge from a sewer system. This type of insurance is highly recommended for full-time residents and second homeowners. If you have any questions concerning specific Upper Blue Sanitation District policies or would like further information you can contact the UBSD at 970-453-2723.

UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

TELEPHONE: 970-453-2723

FAX: 970-453-2013

WWW.UBSD.ORG

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PO BOX 1216

BRECKENRIDGE, COLORADO 80424

One principle that the District has steadfastly maintained, even in the face of challenges from powerful and entrenched interests, is that growth should pay its own way. Plant Investment Fees are paid by new customers for their portion of plant capacity. Line extensions for new construction are paid for, or reimbursed to the District, by the users of the extension. An inclusion fee is charged to the new areas that annex into the District and will be using the existing infrastructure. Although the District could levy Real Property Taxes to pay for extensions and expansions we have considered that an unfair approach and have kept the mil levy at ZERO. Operation and maintenance are funded by user fees, but those costs have been kept in line to the point that the user fees are some of the lowest in the area. At the same time, the District has implemented policies to finance upfront costs for existing residences to get sewer service; and for full-time residents in multi-family complexes to get lowered rates.

Hopefully, future Boards will meet the challenge to maintain these philosophies even as other entities begin to require existing residents to subsidize new development. Those Boards will also face the need to defend the District's interests and assets including the water rights that the District owns in the Blue River. Those water rights allow the District to divert water from the Blue River at the Farmer's Korner Plant to dilute the discharge from the Plant into Dillon Reservoir. Without that dilution water, the costs to the District customers and perhaps the constituents as well, would be enormous. But there are also enormous pressures on the Blue River for the use of its waters that if allowed, could curtail the District's use of our water rights. The need to defend and protect those rights will never go away.

Future Boards will also have to face the challenge of keeping and protecting the flow of water in the Blue River, which was the purpose for the construction of the Iowa Hill Treatment Plant. The discharge from that Plant was intended to increase the flow in the River; it was not intended to allow other diverters to use more water out of the River. Without the District's vigilance the increased flow from Iowa Hill would be entirely used by others, and the River would suffer.

Operations of the Upper Blue Sanitation District are strictly regulated by State and Federal agencies. Those regulations are continually getting stricter, and the District must continue to work to prevent regulations from becoming oppressive without offsetting benefit to the environment. Actions by others to re-categorize the Blue River, use its waters or locate other facilities can have detrimental effects on the District's regulatory framework, and the District must be vigilant to not be blindsided by unintended consequences from others' actions.

All of this is by way of saying that who is elected to the Board of Directors of the Upper Blue Sanitation District actually matters a lot. Please take the time to learn about the issues and I believe that you will then decide to judge the candidates based on their commitment to continuing the strong and successful course on which the District has been guided for the past 20 years. Once again thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our community on the Board of Directors of the Upper Blue Sanitation District.

Regards, Robin Theobald

SERVICE LINES

HOMEOWNER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The District operates and maintains nearly 120 miles of sewer mainline. In the course of maintenance, routine inspections are conducted using video cameras which allow us to visually inspect pipe lines. During inspections we often find individual sewer service lines that show signs of ground water infiltration. Ground water infiltration into the District's system can contribute to hydraulic overloading of both the collection and treatment systems.

Once discovered, the District notifies the homeowner of the problem and requires repair. While the District will provide assistance when possible, the service line remains the homeowner's responsibility to make the necessary repairs. Generally, the required time frame for repair is 10 days after notification, although there are instances where that time limit can be extended. If repairs are not made as required, the District has the authority to impose any or all of the following: a) disconnect service b) a \$100 per day fine c) make the repair and back charge the homeowner.

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 \$26 which is the current cost per SFE to equal your monthly sewer charge. A detailed breakdown of SFE calculations can be found on the District's web site at www.ubsd.org.

SAY NO TO OILS AND GREASE

No one wants to be unfortunate enough to experience a sewage backup in their home, but the chances of this happening have less to do with luck than you might think. What we put down our drains has a direct effect on the operation of the sewage collection system.

Fats, oils, and greases (FOG) can be a primary cause of clogged sewage pipes. Just like they do in our own arteries, these products cool, harden, and collect in sewer pipes. As they accumulate, sewage flow is restricted and can eventually be blocked completely. With nowhere to go, the wastewater will backup into homes causing major inconvenience and expensive cleanup and repair, or spill from a manhole threatening the public health and environment. Here's what you can do to promote the good health of your sewage collection system:

Collect any FOG that will harden in a disposable container and put it in your household garbage.

Many cooking and frying oils can be filtered and reused once or twice. When they are no longer good, collect them in an old oil or milk jug, cap tightly, and dispose of with the garbage.

Before washing greasy dishes, toss greasy food scraps in the garbage and pre-wipe with a paper towel.

Grease and oil recycling may be on the way through the efforts of the High Country Conservation Center and Summit grease recycling, so get in the habit now of saving your FOG.

Help fight the FOG! Don't put Fats, Oils, and Greases down the drain!

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT UBSD

The District is currently taking applications for the position of System Operator. We are looking for a team player with the desire to pursue a career in wastewater operations. We are looking for certified operators however those without certifications will also be considered. The District offers a highly competitive salary along with excellent benefits, and housing options are available. Pre-employment drug/alcohol testing, driving record and background checks are required prior to employment.

If you wish to apply for this position please contact the administration office at 979-453-2723.

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