

UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

UBSD



NEWS

JANUARY 2018

NO FEE INCREASES FOR 2018

The Board of Directors recently adopted the 2018 Budget and continued to hold the line on increasing fees. Both the Plant Investment Fee and the monthly service fee remain at the 2012 levels. The District operates with the philosophy of growth paying 100% of its own way and now has extended that direction well into the future. Implementation of the ten year Capital and Financial Master Plan has ensured that customers will only pay for the operation, maintenance and repair of the District's facilities at the lowest monthly sewer service fee in Summit County.

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. In addition, the District has not relied on property taxes as a source of income in 25 years.

GOT INSURANCE?

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 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.

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

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Barrie Stimson, President

Patty Theobald, Vice President

**Allyn Mosher, Secretary/
Treasurer**

Jeremy Fisher

Jason Hart

Andrew Carlberg,

District Manager

GREASE TRAP MAINTENANCE

The District's treatment facilities can treat most waste that is contributed to our system. However, grease and grease products are difficult to remove and cause many operational problems. We encourage homeowners to not dispose of grease down the drain. As for restaurants with grease traps, we require those businesses to clean the traps on a regular basis and submit the receipts of maintenance. In January of 2018 we will be contacting those businesses with grease traps for onsite inspections. If customers have any questions, we encourage you to contact our office.

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, a detached, single family home with 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms equals one SFE. If the number of bedrooms or bathrooms increases, 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.

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 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

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PROTECTING THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FOR OVER 50 YEARS