

UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

UBSD



NEWS

JANUARY 2019

NO FEE INCREASES FOR 2019

The Board of Directors recently adopted the 2019 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. 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. In addition, the District has not relied on property taxes as a source of income in over 25 years.

In 2018 the District concentrated on repair of old clay sewer mains that were a major source of infiltration and inflow. This effort will continue in 2019 with our efforts concentrating in the Warriors Mark Subdivision.

WHAT IS A LIFT STATION AND A PUMP STATION?

Under normal wastewater collection, sewage flows by gravity to the treatment facility. When sewage cannot flow by means of gravity to the treatment facility, lift stations are installed. These "stations" are tanks with pumps which lift the sewage to an elevation where it can then flow by gravity. The lift station holds sewage until the level in the station gets high enough to call for a pump to run. The pump then pumps the sewage up to an elevation to where the sewage can then flow by gravity to the treatment facility. By this method, pumping stations are used to move waste to higher elevations. In the case of failure of the pumping station, a backup in the sewer system will occur and can lead to a sanitary sewer backup into the residence.

Items that may cause a pump to clog and stop pumping may include cigarette butts, sanitary napkins, baby wipes, grease & oils, dental floss or paper products other than toilet paper. Products labeled as "flushable" may not be suitable for the lift station.

FINANCING FOR SEPTIC SYSTEMS

The District offers financing of all fees if you choose to abandon your current septic system and connect to the District's treatment facilities. We do this to encourage abandoning outdated septic systems which will not only protect public health but also reduce harmful release of pollutants into the environment. This program is not offered with new construction. If interested, please contact our administration office 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

Allyn Mosher, President

Jason Hart, Vice President

**Patricia Theobald, Secretary/
Treasurer**

Rick Orwig

Signe Rockne-Stimson

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 2019 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 SFE's 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 SFE's assigned to the home. The amount of calculated SFE's 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 in 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