

# UPPER BLUE SANITATION DISTRICT

# UBSD



# NEWS

JANUARY 2020

## NO FEE INCREASES AND NO TAXES FOR 2020

The Board of Directors recently adopted the 2020 Budget and continued to hold the line on increasing fees. Both the Plant Investment Fee and the base monthly service fee have remained the same for the past nine (9) years. 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 27 years.

## 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 We do this to encourage abandoning outdated septic systems which will not only protect public health, but also reduce harmful release of pollutants into the environment.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 to new construction. If interested, please contact our administration office at 970-453-2723.

## SINGLE FAMILY HOMES USED AS SHORT TERM RENTALS

The Board of Directors has been reviewing the sewer loading impacts of single family homes (SFH) now being used as short term rentals. Historically, the District has separated residential properties into Single Family and Multiplex categories based on historical peak flow. Multiplex units exhibit higher peak flow than a normal single family home because the typical multiplex is used as a short term rental. Now we are seeing more SFH's used in the same manner. The District gathered short term rental information from the Town of Breckenridge and Summit County concerning bedroom/bathroom count and advertised occupancy, then compared that with what is allowed in our multiplex category. The results were astonishing! Based on our District's Rules and Regulations pertaining to flow and loading characteristic's of a typical SFH the new use of SFH's used as short term rentals clearly showed this type of use was more like the use of a multiplex unit. After numerous meetings reviewing the information, the Board in accordance with the Rules and Regulations passed a resolution classifying SFH's used as short term rentals into the Multiplex category. This re-classification or change of use will increase the monthly service fee for SFH's used as short term rentals. If you short term your SFH you can visit our web page for the full details.

## 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

**Allyn Mosher, President**

**Jason Hart, Vice President**

**Signe Rockne-Stimson, Secretary/Treasurer**

**Robin Theobald,**

**Rick Orwig**

**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 2020 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](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 50 YEARS**