

FOG

Continued from page 3

trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or trash for disposal.

4. Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and dispose of them in the trash.

5. Advise your children, friends, and neighbors about the importance of keeping grease out of sewers.

6. Be cautious of chemicals and additives that claim to dissolve grease. Some of these products merely pass the grease further down the District's sewer system.

Following the above guidelines will go a long way toward the prevention of costly and environmentally damaging sewage backups and overflows.

District's or Customer's Responsibility?

Most sewage backups occur in the service line between Valley Sanitation District's main line and the customer's home, which is the property and responsibility of the customer. The removal of clogs or repair of any damage

to the service line is a **homeowner's** responsibility. (see sidebar on right). Valley makes every effort to protect its customers against sewage backups. Under the District's preventative maintenance program launched in the 1990s, 25 percent of the main lines are camera-inspected for blockages annually, with areas of build-up "jet cleaned" with high-pressure water. Further, our crews conduct visual



Inspecting sewer mains

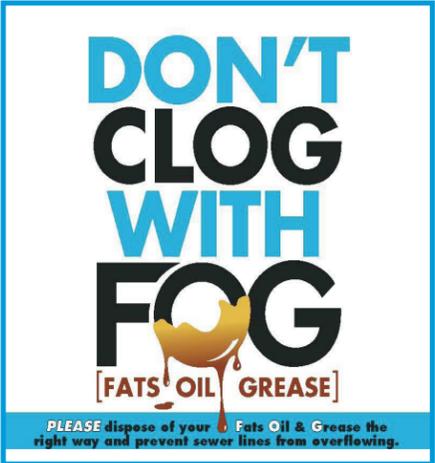
inspections of manholes on some sewer lines monthly, and some areas also receive more frequent camera-inspections and jet cleaning.

Help Us Win the Fight Against FOG!

SIDEBAR - Check your home insurance policy

Many homeowner insurance policies exclude coverage for damage caused by sewer backups.

Although the coverage for such situations is frequently excluded, it usually can be purchased by homeowners for a nominal amount. We encourage you to contact your insurance representative to determine the status of your coverage.



Valley Sanitation District

Newsletter

November 2014

Valley Sanitation District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors. The Board meets at Centennial Lutheran Church, 3595 W. Belleview Ave., at 5:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month. Citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Valley Board of Directors Votes to Impose Service Fee

Following an August 13 public hearing, the Valley Sanitation District Board of Directors approved implementation of a sanitary sewer service fee upon all District customers to be used for repair and rehabilitation of Valley's sewer pipelines. The fee will be billed by the City of Englewood on each Valley customer's sewer bill beginning in January 2015. Average residential customers are expected to be charged an additional \$22 annually.

The amount of the charge per customer will vary depending on the amount of water consumed by each customer during winter months when water is not being used for irrigation purposes. As such, water usage during winter months is equivalent to the amount of wastewater discharged into Valley's sanitary sewer collection system and is thus reflective of each customer's proportionate usage of the system.

The Board established that the service fee will be 10% of the fee Englewood charges customers for sewer treatment. For most customers, this arrangement will result in an additional annual charge of \$21.63. Those residential, commercial and industrial users who consume more water during the winter months will pay a higher fee.

As explained by the Board during the August public hearing, the new service fee is necessary to repair and rehabilitate 42,000 feet of concrete sewer pipe. Video inspections and analysis of the sewer pipe reveal existing and ongoing moderate to severe corrosion and deterioration of much of the concrete pipe. Failure to rehabilitate the District's aging infrastructure will undoubtedly cause pipeline failures, leading to sewer backups and possible sewer spills into state and federal regulated streams and rivers. Such occurrences could result in private and public property damage along with

environmental fines and penalties. The new service fee revenue will be restricted for use on capital sewer projects and will not be used for normal District operations. It is estimated that rehabilitation of those sewer mains in need of repair will cost in excess of \$1.35 million dollars. District staff advised the Board that failure to implement the service fee in the near future would only delay the inevitable need to move forward with upgrading District infrastructure and result in much higher assessments down the road.

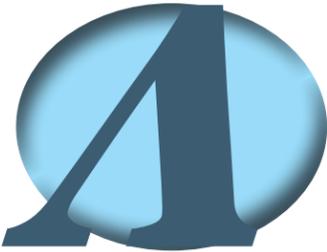
Upon approval of the service fee, the Board instructed District staff to prepare a newsletter explaining the state of the District's infrastructure and the need to begin rehabilitation as soon as feasible. The Board also directed staff to prepare a District website to disseminate information to District customers in a timely manner (see article on page 3). Finally, the Board requested that customer questions and comments regarding the service fee be directed to staff member Patrick Fitzgerald at 303-979-2333.



Corroded sewer pipe

PRESORTED STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BROOMFIELD, CO 80020
PERMIT 220

Valley Sanitation District
8739 W. Coal Mine Ave.
Littleton, CO 80123



Are You Living in a FOG-gy Home?

What is FOG? No it isn't a cloud that has invaded your home, rather **FOG** or **FOGs** is an acronym for Fat(s), Oil, and Grease. FOG is composed of animal and vegetable fats and oils that are common in every home. It can come from many sources, including meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, dairy products, sauces, food scraps, and even cat litter.

FOGs aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they are bad for sewer pipes as well. They can stick to the walls of the drainage pipes that carry wastewater from your home to the treatment plant if poured down a sink drain or toilet. Eventually, the entire pipe can become blocked and prevent the flow of wastewater. This causes the sanitary sewer to become blocked and can cause wastewater to back up inside or outside your home. Sewer backups and overflows can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. FOG is the number one cause of public and private sewage spills.



Homeowner's sewer pipe clogged with grease

The easiest way to solve the FOG problem and help prevent overflow is to keep these materials out of the sewer system in the first place.

How You Can Help?

Homeowners can assist the District in its fight against FOG in the following ways:

1. Use sewer lines for wash waters and human wastes only.
2. Never pour non-water-soluble substances, such as grease, cooking or motor oil, cat litter or rags, into your toilets, sinks, or storm-drains.
3. Scrape grease and food scraps from

See **FOG** on page 4



Platte Canyon Maintenance Operations Staff

District Maintenance Services Provided by Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District

In 2007 Valley Sanitation District contracted with Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District to perform sewer operation and maintenance services along with limited administrative services. In considering an intergovernmental agreement between Valley and Platte Canyon, the Valley Board of Directors determined that Platte Canyon was capable of providing more reliable and cost effective services than other service alternatives under consideration. Services performed by Platte Canyon include the following:

- Responding to routine and emergency (24 hour) customer service calls.
- Preventive sewer system maintenance consisting of:
 - ~ video inspection of all Valley sanitary sewer mains on a four year rotating cycle
 - ~ sanitary sewer cleaning on an as needed basis as determined by video inspections
 - ~ sewer root cutting and root treatment services on an as needed basis as determined by video inspections.
 - ~ sewer main and manhole repair

and rehabilitation services

~ planning and consulting services related to development of short term and long term operations and capital rehabilitation and replacement plans

Platte Canyon's operations staff consists of seven employees that fill the Supervisor, Foreman, and Operator positions for the District. This staff has over 75 years combined experience in the water distribution and wastewater collection fields. As mandated by State and Federal law, all District operations staff members are trained and certified in operating and maintaining water and wastewater systems and have varying levels of certification through the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE).

Operations staff members are the "face" of the District since they are the employees that make direct contact with District customers either in response to customer service calls, conducting routine maintenance in District neighborhoods or responding to emergency situations 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

The District is proud to have these devoted, knowledgeable employees providing service to Valley customers.

What Does Valley Sanitation District Do For Me?

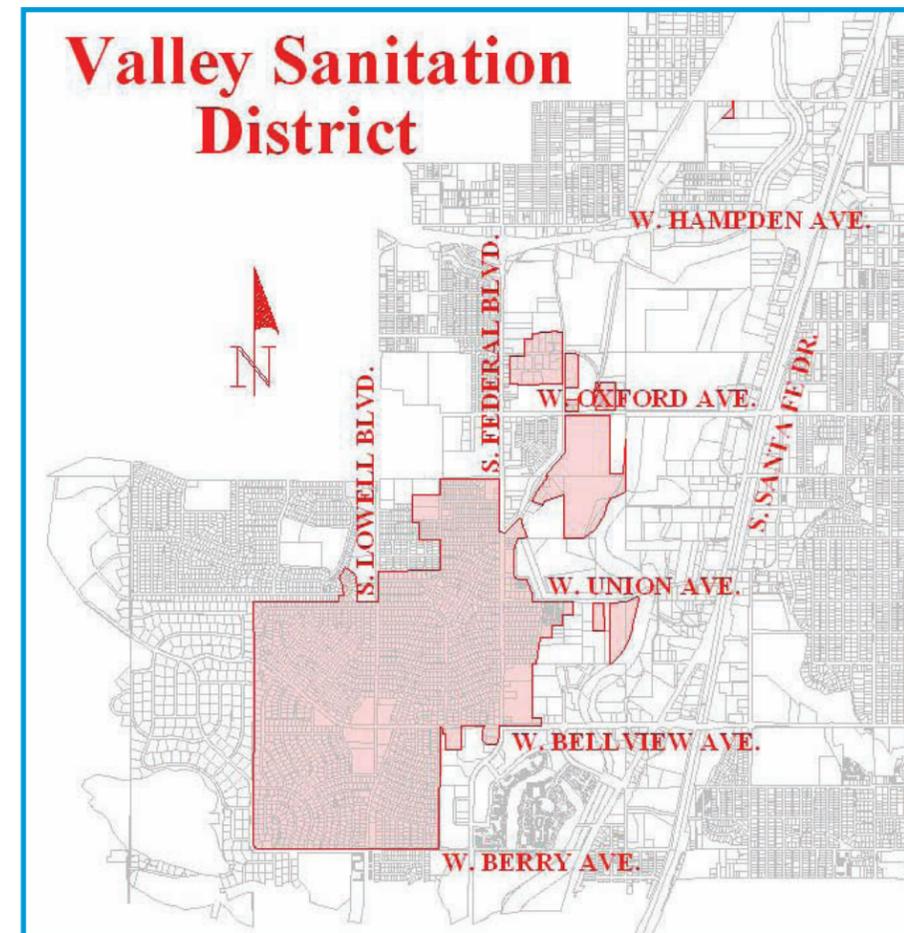
District residents often ask who or what is Valley Sanitation District. Simply put, Valley Sanitation District is a governmental entity that provides wastewater collection services for a portion of the Cities of Englewood, Denver, and Sheridan (see boundary map below). Valley owns and maintains the sanitary sewer pipes that collect wastewater from homes and businesses located within the District's boundaries. The wastewater is transmitted through a series of pipes to the Littleton-Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant located at Dartmouth Ave. and Platte River Dr. Valley contracts with the City of Englewood to treat and dispose of the wastewater. Englewood directly bills each Valley residence for treatment services. The collected funds support treatment services only, Valley **does not** receive any funds through the City of Englewood.

Valley is governed by a five-member

Board of Directors. Board elections are held in May of even numbered years. All registered voters residing within and/or owning property within the District are eligible to vote for District directors. Current District directors are: Phyllis Gooden, Mary Alice Ledbetter, Frederick Boggs, Wilbur R. Hall and Connie Kucharski.

Valley assesses a property tax mill levy for administration and operation and maintenance of the District owned wastewater collection system. The mill levy is set by the District Board of Directors during the budget process in October and November of each year. The levy is certified to the county tax assessors who collect the revenue and transmit it to the District.

Questions regarding Valley Sanitation District may be directed to Manager Pat Harris at 303-795-7712.



Valley District Boundaries

Watch For New Website



In an effort to provide more detailed and timely information to District customers, Valley Sanitation District is currently designing a new website. Because Valley's agreements with Denver Water and City of Englewood require those entities to bill customers directly for water and sanitary sewer service, the District does not have an opportunity to transmit information to customers with their utility bills. The District mails occasional newsletters to customers, but has found that particular method of communication both costly and inadequate for providing as much information as quickly as we would like. The website will enable the District to disseminate more thorough and detailed information in a more timely manner than it has been capable of in the past. It is anticipated that the new website will be launched in January 2015. The new website's address will be www.colorado.gov/valleysanitation.

District Crews Available 24/7, 365 Days Per Year For Emergencies

24/7
365
ON CALL
EMERGENCY
SERVICE

To report problems with sewer service, contact Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District at 303-979-2333 before calling a plumber or another contractor. After-hours emergency calls are automatically directed to an on-call maintenance operations employee who promptly returns calls.

Please note that the District **does not charge** for responding to service calls.