

Valley Sanitation District
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 Littleton, CO 80123

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Valley Sanitation District Newsletter

May 2016

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.

Your Wastewater is Valley Sanitation's Business

And important business it is!

Valley Sanitation District owns, operates and repairs the sanitary sewer mains that carry your wastewater to the Littleton-Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant. The District owns 27 miles of sewer pipe including 4 miles of outfall pipe described in the article on page 1. Funds to perform Valley's critical functions come from property taxes, and a service fee assessed on the sewer and/or water bill you receive from the City of Englewood. By residing within the Valley Sanitation District, and paying these taxes and fees you are a business owner that shares in the services and benefits provided by the District.

As business owners, we all have an obligation to make sure our infrastructure (sewer pipe) is well maintained and capable of providing continuous, reliable service. This requires that the pipes be video-inspected and cleaned on a regular basis. It also requires that aging pipes be rehabilitated or replaced as needed.

Many of the District's pipes have reached their expected useful life and are being scheduled for rehabilitation in the next few years. Valley has a reserve fund that can pay for some of this work, but additional revenue will be needed. The governing board of our business – the District – is considering a number of options to acquire the necessary funds to perform these important repairs and upgrades to ensure that all of us business owners can be comfortable in knowing that when we shower or flush the toilet the wastewater will flow from our homes and businesses and be safely transported to the treatment facility. Again, please refer to the article on page 1 for more information about the future infrastructure repair needs of the District.

Please visit Valley Sanitation Districts' website at www.colorado.gov/valleysanitation for more information about the District, and for updates on the Board of Directors' deliberations

on financing options for infrastructure rehabilitation.

Who is responsible for business decisions for the District?

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. The District manager is Pat Harris who can be contacted at 303-795-7712.

Valley contracts with Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District to perform sewer video inspections, cleaning, and root treatment and removal (*see article on page 2*). Maintenance problems should be referred to Platte Canyon at 303-979-2333.

Searching For Solutions To Sewer Repairs

A thorough inspection of the Valley Sanitation District's sewer collection system has revealed widespread problems that could result in future pipe failures, sewage stoppages and backups into homes and businesses. Each year one quarter of the District's system is inspected with video camera equipment. Digital records are retained and used for comparison of the condition of each pipeline over time. Recent inspections have shown various degrees of pipe wall deterioration, particularly in the eight miles of concrete pipe that was installed in the 1950s. As these pipes age, the concrete weakens due to chemical (hydrogen sulfide) attack. The structural strength

of the pipe is reduced which increases the risk of collapse and resulting sewer backups. The estimated cost to repair Valley's concrete pipe is \$1.3 million.

Dangerous gas build-up necessitates repair of 21-inch sewer outfall pipe

In addition to the eight-inch diameter pipes located in residential subdivisions, Valley owns a 21-inch outfall sewer pipe that carries wastewater from the District to the Littleton-Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant at Dartmouth Avenue and Santa Fe Drive. This very critical facility was recently detected to be collecting methane gas from a landfill near Oxford Avenue and the South Platte River.



Corroded sewer pipe

The District is currently assessing alternatives to relocate this pipe because of its age and deteriorated condition, as well as its location in an abandoned landfill. The District will seek funding from various sources to ameliorate this dangerous situation, but must also prepare to pay some, or all of the pipeline relocation costs.

Valley has rehabilitated approximately six miles of sewer pipe as funds became available. However, these repairs and regular District maintenance has depleted the District's reserve fund. Last year the District imposed a sewer service charge which is billed by the City of Englewood on Valley customer sewer bills. The additional revenue will be used for rehabilitation of the District's sewer system, but it is currently not providing sufficient funds to reduce the high risk of system failures.

Alternatives being considered to solve problem

In order to advance the timing for collection system pipeline rehabilitation and the relocation of the interceptor sewer, Valley's Board of Directors is considering a number of alternatives; 1) an increase in the District's sewer service charge, 2) asking voters to approve an increase in the District's property tax mill levy, and 3) seeking a loan from the Colorado Water Resource and Power Development Authority, which would also require voter approval and a temporary mill levy increase to pay back the loan. Additional information about the Board's deliberations will be posted to the District's website www.colorado.gov/valleysanitation. Valley customers are also welcome to attend the Board's monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at Centennial Lutheran Church located at 3595 W. Belleview Avenue.

Are You Living in a FOG-gy Home?

What is FOG? It is not a cloud that invades 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 commonly found in homes. It comes from many sources, including meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, dairy products, sauces, food scraps and even cat litter.

FOGs are not 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 3



Platte Canyon Maintenance Operations Staff

District Maintenance Services Provided by Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District

Valley Sanitation District contracts with Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District to perform sewer operation and maintenance services along with limited administrative services. 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 as well as capital rehabilitation and replacement plans
- Platte Canyon's operations staff consists of seven employees who fill the Supervisor, Foreman, and Operator

positions for the District, combining 110 years of 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 hold 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 make direct contact with District customers when responding to customer service calls, conducting routine maintenance in District neighborhoods or responding to emergency situations 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.

What to do if you are experiencing a problem

To report problems with sewer service, contact Platte Canyon directly 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.

FOG

Continued from page 2



Inspecting sewer mains

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 prevention of costly and environmentally damaging sewage backups and overflows.

District's or Customer's Responsibility?

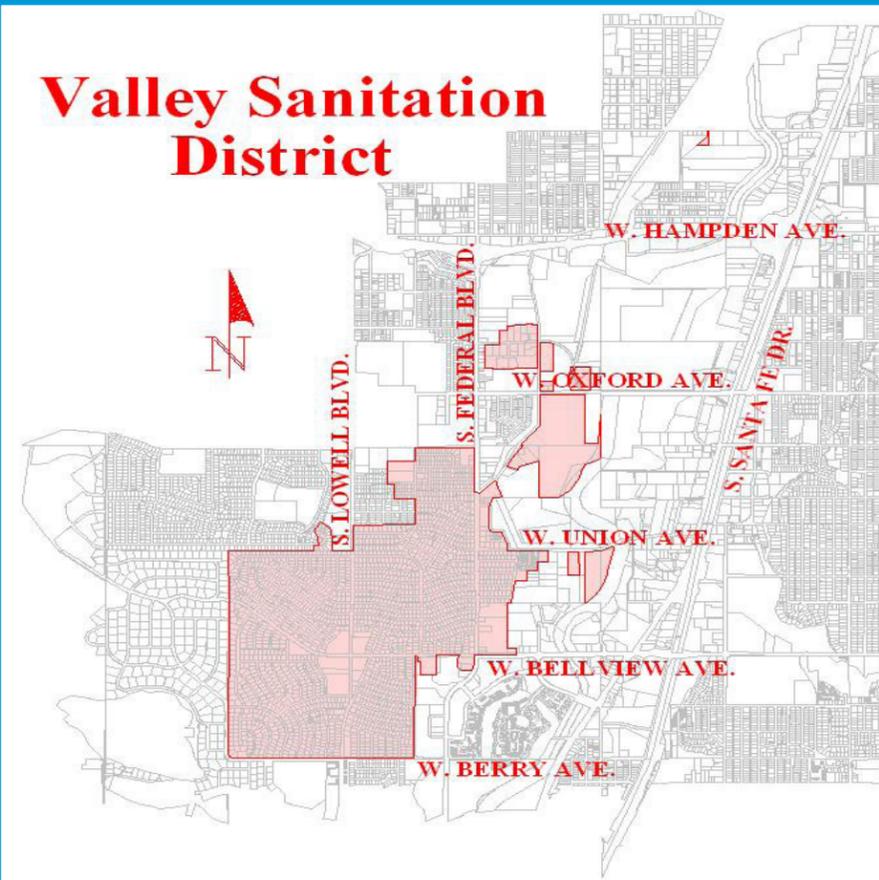
Most sewage backups occur in the service line between Valley Sanitation District's main line and the customer's home, which is the property and responsibility of the customer.

The removal of clogs or repair of any damage to the service line is a homeowner's responsibility.

Valley makes every effort to protect its customers against sewage backups. Under the District's preventative maintenance program launched during the 1990s, 25 percent of the main lines are camera-inspected for blockages annually and areas with build-up are "jet cleaned" with high-pressure water. Further, District crews conduct visual inspections of manholes on some sewer lines monthly and some areas receive more frequent camera-inspections and jet cleaning.

Help Us Win the Fight Against FOG!

Valley Sanitation District



Valley District Boundaries

District Cancels Election

Valley cancelled its Board of Directors Election scheduled for May 3, 2016 after determining that existing Board members were running unopposed. Colorado Statutes provide for District elections to be cancelled if only one candidate steps forward for each available position on the Board of Directors, including candidates filing affidavits of intent to be a write-in candidate.

As a result of the cancellation, incumbent directors Frederick Boggs, Wilbur Hall and Connie Kucharski were declared elected to four-year terms beginning in May 2016.



Keep Informed - Visit the District's Website

Valley encourages its customers to visit the District's website at www.colorado.gov/valleysanitation to be kept informed about District going on.

Because Valley's agreement with the City of Englewood require the entity to bill customers directly for sanitary sewer service, the District does not have an opportunity to transmit information to customers with their utility bills.

The website, which is routinely updated, enables the District to disseminate more thorough and detailed information about District activities as it becomes available – no need to wait for the occasional District newsletter to be mailed to you.

Keep informed by visiting the website regularly.

