



“Dedicated to Preserve the Purity of Your Environment”

Ratepayer News

MILLER CREEK WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT IMPROVEMENTS

The District has just about wrapped up the Primary Clarifier Rehabilitation project at the Miller Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant in Normandy Park. This Capital Improvement Project is providing significant equipment and safety improvements to the facility.

The significant upgrades and improvements include replacement of all internal mechanical equipment for the four primary clarifiers, which also include new safety odor control covers and handrails. The deteriorated roof structures over the clarifiers were also removed.

Upgrades to the electrical system included the installation of new energy efficient lighting, new electrical motors and process control equipment. The replacement of these systems will provide long term reliability and cost effective process control.



Safety improvements include the replacement of the worn fiberglass odor control covers which had become structurally unsound and created a safety hazard to employees and the visiting public. Additionally, we have installed safety railing to comply with updated Labor and Industry fall protection standards and requirements.

Going forward, the newly replaced equipment will keep the wastewater treatment process running efficiently and effectively for another 40+ years.

Inside this issue:

Miller Creek WWTP Improvements	1
Low Income Rate Available	1
Your Sewer Dollars at Work	2

District Office:

431 SW Ambaum Boulevard
Burien, Washington 98166
Phone: 206-244-9575
Fax: 206-433-8546

Forms can be downloaded from the District website to apply for the low income rate discount or to set up electronic bill-payer service. You may also pay your bill via the website: **www.swssd.com**.

You are invited to attend the monthly Board of Commissioners meetings at the District Office on the first Tuesday and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.

Board of Commissioners:

William Tracy, President
Susan Genzale, Vice-President
Scott Hilsen, Secretary

LOW INCOME RATE AVAILABLE

The Board of Commissioners approved a program to assist low income households within our District several years ago. Qualifying homeowners receive a reduced billing rate of \$15.00 a month.

To see if you may qualify for this program, go to our website at www.swssd.com, or call our office at 206-244-9575.

If you believe you qualify for the discount, there is an application form to complete along with proof of the prior year's income. All information is kept confidential. Qualification is determined by the number of people in the household as well as the total household income. We encourage everyone to check to see if they may qualify.

YOUR SEWER DOLLARS AT WORK

SEWER MAIN CLEANING

You may have seen a large truck with a hose reel on the front, and a large tank on the back with smaller aluminum tanks mounted below it working in your neighborhood. Have you every wondered what it is, what it does, or why it's there? It is a Vactor brand combination jetter/vacuum sewer cleaning machine, part of "Your Sewer Dollars at Work".

Like anything that is manmade, the sewer system needs periodic maintenance in order to function properly and extend its service life. Normally sewage flows from your house to the treatment plant with no problems. Over time, obstructions can form in the sewer pipe. Sand, gravel, rock, pieces of broken pipe, roots, congealed cooking oil/grease, small toys, the so-called "flushable" wipes and anything else that can go down a toilet or drain can combine to slow or block the flow.

This is when the Vactor and its crew go to work. The hose reel carries 600 feet of one inch diameter hose, which delivers up to 80 gallons of water per minute at between 1200 and 2500 psi to clean the sewer line. There is a nozzle or special root cutter on the end of the hose used to break up and flush the obstruction out of the line, restoring normal flow to the pipe. If there is a large amount of debris in the pipe the Vactor has a high powered vacuum system that will suck the material out of a manhole so that it can't cause a problem elsewhere in the sewer system.

The vast majority of the sewer system is in good shape. However, there are several places in the District that are designated to be cleaned on a regular basis, which might be every six months, once a year, or every two years.

According to Peter Sanchez, Sewer Department Supervisor, these areas are determined in one of three ways: routine video inspection, routine line cleaning which shows evidence of an obstruction, or a line that has completely plugged up. Once an area of concern has been identified, the location is added to a list for regular cleaning.

Whenever possible, District crews are out doing routine cleaning of the sewer lines. So why clean a sewer line if it isn't causing problems? One reason is to locate problems in the making, another is to extend the life of the pipe and manholes. The manholes with few exceptions are made of concrete, as are the pipes in the older parts of the sewer system. As the organics in the sewage break down, they release hydrogen sulfide, which when combined with moisture in the system creates sulfuric acid that attacks the concrete and can destroy it. Regular cleaning/flushing the lines disrupts the process thereby extending the life of the concrete. The last reason is to help prevent odors; hydrogen sulfide smells like rotten eggs. Regular cleaning eliminates this and other objectionable odor from the system.

Remember that 80 gallons of pressurized water that comes out of the Vactor? That water moves a lot of air through the sewer pipes, most of which goes out of the plumbing vent on the roof of your house. Sometimes there is more air than the vent can handle, and when this happens the air may push the water out of the toilet bowl. For this reason, it is advisable to keep the lid down when the toilet isn't in use. If water does "spout" out of the toilet please call the District .



Sewer Department Crew (l. to r.) Milton Myers, Victor Luna, Nick Vaughn and Brennan Gantz .



You may see the District's Vactor jetter/vacuum truck in your neighborhood.