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Regular meetings of the Board of Commissioners are held the first and third Wednesdays of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Public comment is always welcome.

Commissioners:
Mike Johnson
Thomas McGrath
Thomas Rainville

General Manager:
Jim Voetberg

Editor/Designer:
Lisa Wolfson

The Year in Review

A message to our Customers from our General Manager

First and foremost, on behalf of the Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District, I would like to extend our deepest appreciation in being able to serve all our customers, and wish everyone Happy Holidays.

2013 was an exciting year for the District, as well as a year of change. Over the past year we successfully completed many projects and made various improvements to our water and wastewater systems. We carefully looked at how we operated in order to ensure our systems are built and maintained for the long haul, and, importantly, that you, our customers, can rely on long-term stability in your rates. The District also saw the retirement of long-time General Manager Dan Hammer who, through his expertise and commitment, built the District into one of the best water and sewer districts in the state. As the new General Manager, it has been an honor following Dan and I can personally attest to how fortunate we all are of his 42 years of dedicated service to the community.

The District's plans and goals for 2014 build upon our past successes with an eye on the future. We are committed to continuing along the path of making sure we operate as efficiently as possible while ensuring our systems are maintained in such a condition they will be here for our kids and grandkids. Our upgrades and infrastructure replacement will be strategically planned to coincide with revenues. We are committed to working closely with our partners, such as the City of Mukilteo and private developers, to make sure our growth is done in a thoughtful and logical manner.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge that the success of the District is due to our professional and dedicated employees and District Commissioners. Our Mukilteo Water and Wastewater District Team – or better your District Team – continually keeps in the forefront the needs of our customers and adheres to the simple philosophy of providing safe and reliable water and wastewater services to our valued customers.

Happy Holidays,
Jim Voetberg, General Manager

Service Termination Notification Change

Effective January 1, 2014, we will be phasing out our practice of physically placing a tag on homes with delinquent balances, prior to shut-off, per Resolution No. 295-13.

Instead of a door tag, we will be mailing a "Notice of Termination" to owners and residents. This will be the final notice before shutoff. Please be aware the tenant will not receive a termination notice if the property owner or authorized agent has not opted for duplicate billing to the tenant. Contact the District for information regarding duplicate billing.

Winterizing Your Home

Cold weather is upon us. It's important to prevent frozen pipes. Winter Water Tips can be found on our website under Water Quality/Conservation Tips.



Our Future Today

Cub Scouts Take Interest in Wastewater Operations

Author: Darin Janda, Wastewater Treatment Facility Lead

On November 19, 2013, the Big Gulch Wastewater Treatment Facility was visited by the young men of Mukilteo Cub Scout Pack 8, Wolf Den. The Cub Scouts took a tour of the wastewater facility and learned how wastewater is treated at the newly upgraded plant. The Scouts were also shown the microorganisms that are used to treat wastewater by MWW treatment plant operator, Al Bahl. Using a camera connected to a microscope, Al was able to show and identify the living organisms for the Scouts.

The Scouts asked many interesting and pertinent questions during the tour. As these young men are our future, our future is in good hands.

Darin Janda has been actively involved in the Boy Scout organization for the last 10 years.

Contact Information Request

As an ongoing effort to improve communication with our customers, a contact information form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please complete and return the form with your next payment. This form is also available on our website. This information will only be used to relay specific account information or general important District information. We appreciate your assistance in updating our records.

Learn more about your water and what we do to provide you safe, quality service and excellent customer service at www.mukilteowwd.org.

Get Your Free Fat Trapper Here!

We have a limited number of Fat Trappers and disposable liners to residential customers who come in to the office and request one.

Author: Greg Bradley, Pretreatment Technician

Did you know that, much like the human body, the sewer system that serves Mukilteo has arteries? They are not actually called arteries, but rather, side sewers and mainlines. These "arteries" carry raw wastewater to the wastewater treatment facility and function just like our arteries and can become clogged with grease and cause serious problems.

The grease we are talking about is referred to as FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease). If you pour FOG down the drain, as it cools, it builds up on the inside of the pipes that take the wastewater to the treatment facility and can eventually cause sewage to back up in your home or in the streets. Earlier this year in London, England, crews discovered and removed a 15 ton "fatberg" that had built up inside of the sewer system. This "fatberg" consisted of mainly grease and disposable wipes, and took crews with high pressure water jets three weeks to remove it.

FOG can be found in:

- Meat fats, lard, food scraps
- Dairy products
- Sauces, salad dressings
- Baking goods
- Butter, margarine
- Cooking oil, shortening

There are things we can do to keep our drains and sewer lines healthy!

- **Get a free Fat Trapper from our office.** A Fat Trapper is a plastic container with a lid that has removable/disposable liners that you can collect FOG in and simply toss it in the garbage when full.
- Never pour grease down the sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling if available).
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty them into the trash for disposal. (Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of your plumbing system; they only shred solid material into smaller pieces and send it down the line.)
- Avoid items marked as "flushable." They do not break down adequately in the sewer system and cause blockages.