



Your Water

Fall 2007

Visit us at our web site www.plattecanyon.org where you can learn much more about Your Water and the workings of the District.

Web site email update service available

Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District offers a free service that will automatically keep you notified when specific areas of our web site are updated. These areas include: News Articles, Board Meeting Agendas, Board Meeting Minutes, District Projects, and Water and Sanitary Sewer Specifications.

Here's how it works: Go to the Platte Canyon web site home page located at www.plattecanyon.org, scroll down the left-hand side under the menu bar and click on "Register to receive web site updates via email" and you will see the form at right. Fill in the required information and click the "Register" button.

Once registered, we will send an email to inform you that the requested web site area has been updated.

Please note that you won't be flooded with emails from us. (We hate spam as much as you do!) You will only receive emails according to the schedule listed on the subscription page. We will not sell or give this list to anyone else. Your privacy is important to us. Plus, you can unsubscribe at any time (details on how to do this will be included in each email).

You're busy. We understand that. You don't have the time to keep checking our web site. That's why this new service is so great. Sign up now!

If you have any questions about Platte Canyon's web site email update service, please call Barrie Brinkley at 303-979-2333.

Register for Automatic Web Updates

Do you want to be informed when Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District's website is updated?

- We can send you an email message to let you know when specific areas of the website are updated and have the links to your area(s) of interest in your email message.
- We will never give out your email address to anyone else.
- If you ever decide you no longer wish to receive these notices just click on the unsubscribe box and you will be immediately taken off all E-Mail Lists.

If you would like to receive our website updates by email, please enter the requested information below.

First Name:

Last Name:

Email:

Username:

Password:

Please check which website area update(s) you would like to receive from the options below. De-select the area you no longer wish to receive. Remember to click the "Register" button at the bottom of the page when you're done.

News Articles (updated weekly)

Board Meeting Agendas (updated monthly)

Board Meeting Minutes (updated monthly)

District Projects (updated yearly and as project status changes)

Water and Sanitary Sewer Specifications (updated infrequently)

If you have any questions, please email us at info@plattecanyon.org.

What to do in case your sewer backs up

Sewer backups can originate within the customer's sewer service pipe or within Platte Canyon's sewer main for a number of reasons. The most common cause of backups is tree roots growing into the customer's service pipe. Occasionally, however, roots can also infiltrate the District's sewer mains through individual service pipes or through pipe joints. Another common cause of backups is grease buildup that can occur in either customer or District-owned pipes.

To ensure proper operation of District-owned sewer pipes, Platte Canyon conducts an extensive routine preventive maintenance program consisting of periodic video inspection of all District sewer mains, followed by root removal and high pressure

water cleaning of those pipes determined to be in need of further maintenance.

The District is only responsible for operation and maintenance of sewer mains which are usually located in the street in front of residential properties. Homeowners are responsible for maintenance of the connection to the District's sewer main and all of the pipe that extends between the connection and the property receiving service.

Given that sewer stoppages can occur in either pipe, what should homeowners do if they experience a backup? Platte Can-

Please see *What to do in case...* on page 2

What to do in case your sewer backs up continued from page 1

yon encourages homeowners to contact the District as soon as they become aware of the backup. An experienced system operator will be dispatched to the property and will determine whether the stoppage is located in the District's pipe or the customer's pipe. If the District's pipe is functioning properly, the customer will be advised to retain a reputable roto-roter service to clean the sewer service pipe. A follow-up video inspection of the service pipe is also recommended to help determine the cause and likelihood of future problems in the pipe.

If the stoppage is located in a District-owned pipe, our operations service staff will immediately respond to clear the stoppage and restore normal flow. Customers who have incurred a backup of wastewater into their home will be offered an opportunity to have a company retained by the District remove wastewater and clean, sanitize, deodorize and dry the affected area.

Private property damage and loss must be reported to the District's insurance carrier who reviews the claim and determines whether the District is liable for the reported damages. Generally, sewer service providers with comprehensive maintenance programs are found to be not responsible for property damage, even when a stoppage occurs in the sewer main.

Recommendations To Avoid Or Mitigate Damage From A Sewer Backup

Review homeowners insurance policy to verify coverage for sewer backups.

Do not plant deep-rooted trees over, or immediately adjacent to sewer service pipes.

Do not wash grease, fats or oils from food preparation down the drain. Deposit these materials in the trash.

Periodically have your sewer service pipe video inspected by a reputable firm and clean the pipe when necessary.

Do not place valuable personal property on the floor close to a floor drain. Elevate such property at least a few inches off the floor or place it in plastic tubs.

Keep the telephone number for Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District and a reputable sewer service contractor handy in case you do experience a backup.

In order to protect against sewer backup damage, Platte Canyon strongly urges homeowners to carry sewer backup coverage as part of their homeowner's insurance package. Some insurers include such coverage in their standard policy while others offer it as a rider to the normal policy. These insurers rely on the homeowner to specifically re-

quest sewer backup coverage if it is desired. Do not wait for a sewer backup to occur before you determine if your insurance policy contains sewer backup coverage!

In order to avoid sewer backups, and mitigate damage if a backup occurs, Platte Canyon encourages homeowners to follow the recommendations listed in the sidebar at the lower left of this page.

Platte Canyon signs services agreement with Valley Sanitation

The Board of Directors of Platte Canyon has agreed to provide sanitary sewer maintenance and general administrative services to Valley Sanitation District. An intergovernmental agreement similar to contracts previously executed with Bow Mar, Columbine, and Lochmoor Water and Sanitation Districts was approved by both district boards June 22, 2007.

Canyon will also provide 24-hour emergency response service.

Valley and other districts administered by Platte Canyon are generally too small to individually retain permanent staff and purchase equipment to properly maintain their facilities.

In contrast, Platte Canyon offers consistent, reliable service provided by knowledgeable, dedicated employees.



Platte Canyon will be using its sophisticated equipment to maintain sewer lines for Valley Sanitation District under a new agreement.

Valley provides sanitary sewer service to approximately 2,000 homes and businesses generally located between Berry Ave. and Quincy Ave. and between Federal Blvd. and Sheridan Blvd. The District is partially located in the cities of Englewood, Littleton, Denver, and Sheridan.

Valley owns 137,000 feet of sanitary sewer pipe which will now be operated and maintained by Platte Canyon. In addition to preventive sewer video inspection, cleaning and root removal services, Platte

The Districts' Boards of Directors are thus relieved of the burden of constantly searching for reliable, efficient private contractors who can provide consistent preventive as well as emergency maintenance services.

Platte Canyon benefits from the intergovernmental agreements by defraying a portion of its employment, equipment and overhead costs. The agreements are thus truly mutually beneficial to all entities involved.

Learn how to get money back for **saving water**

Experts give free advice at District seminars

Platte Canyon will sponsor a series of water-efficiency sessions to inform District customers how to utilize efficient water and irrigation practices and how to receive monetary compensation by doing it. The instructional series has grown in popularity with the advent of water resource limitations and higher water rates.

The Fall seminar schedule is:

Seminar #1 **Residential Irrigation System Basics and Maintenance with Larry Horgan**

Date: Wednesday, September 26, 2007
Time: 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
District office, 8739 W. Coal Mine Ave.
Cost: Free, reservation required

This seminar is for homeowners with existing sprinkler systems who have questions and/or problems relative to system operation and maintenance. The basic components of a sprinkler system from the water meter pit to the various spray heads will be reviewed, as well as, spring charge-up and winter shut down. Simple repairs from cut or broken pipes, to problems with the backflow preventer, spray heads, and controllers (clocks) will also be covered.

Mr. Horgan is the owner of Garden Builders, Inc. He holds a Master's degree in Landscape Architecture and has been working in the industry for over 20 years. He has been a consultant to Denver Water's Conservation Department for 15 years.

Seminar #2 **Water Conservation: Denver Water's Rebates and Incentives for HOAs and Residential Customers with Timothy LaPan and Cindy Moe**

Date: Wednesday, October 3, 2007
Time: 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
District office, 8739 W. Coal Mine Ave.
Cost: Free, reservation required

This seminar presentation will provide an overview of Denver Water's Commercial and Industrial Water Conservation Rebate



Platte Canyon's water-saving seminars have been greeted enthusiastically by all.

and Incentive programs as well as outdoor rebates and incentives for commercial and residential customers. Denver Water offers rebates to commercial, industrial and residential customers for installing water efficient equipment.

Primary topics being covered in this presentation include:

1. Water Conservation Rebates
2. Commercial and Industrial Incentive Program (Qualifying projects earn up to \$40,000!)
3. Cooling Tower Program
4. Irrigation Efficiency Incentive Program (qualifying projects earn \$4,500/acre foot of saved water!)

Mr. LaPan is a Landscape Architect and Conservation Specialist with the Denver Water Department with over 25

years of experience in the industry. He is responsible for designing the irrigation and landscaping projects for all Denver Water facilities. He is a graduate of the University of Colorado with a degree in Environmental Design.

Ms. Moe is a Commercial Industrial Water Conservation Engineer and has been with Denver Water for four years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Engineering from the School of Mines and a Master's degree in Structural Engineering from the University of Colorado Denver.

To make reservations for these free seminars, please call Alyssa Quinn at 303-979-2333. For more information on the District's Fall seminar program, please visit our web site at http://www.plattecanyon.org/page.cfm/ID/60/Seminar_Program.

Order rubber ducks, tees, stickers, seeds

Denver Water has implemented a new web site as the most recent addition to the **Use Only What You Need** campaign. The goal of the campaign is to educate customers on how to use water efficiently and eliminate waste.

The **Use Only What You Need** campaign started out with outdoor billboards, yard signs, and RTD bus billboards that use

abbreviated headlines such as CNSRV and B STNGY. Now, with the addition of the web site, the campaign invites customers to become an active participant in Denver Water's water efficiency efforts.

To participate, go to www.UseOnly-WhatYouNeed.org. There you will get tips on how to conserve water, prompts that remind you to use only the water you need



around the house, and free products that allow you to demonstrate your commitment to the **Use Only What You Need** cause.

The web site is offering a variety of free items such as: rubber ducks, T-shirts, stickers and Xeriscape plant seeds to get people to start talking about water conservation with their family, friends and neighbors.

To get your free rubber duck mailed to your home or any of the other items mentioned above, go to www.UseOnlyWhatYouNeed.org today.



8739 W. Coal Mine Avenue
Littleton, Colorado 80123
303-979-2333

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