



Your Water

Fall 2011

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

Sanitary sewer rates to rise moderately

The Littleton City Council will consider adoption of a 2 percent increase in sanitary sewer rates for all Littleton and connector district customers (including Platte Canyon sewer customers) on October 18, 2011. If adopted, the rates for single family residential customers will rise from \$208.05 to \$212.21, a \$4.16 annual increase. Multi-family residential customer rates will increase from \$176.84 to \$180.36, \$3.54 per year. Commercial customer rates will increase from \$2.27 to \$2.32 per 1,000 gallons of water consumption.

Platte Canyon contracts with the City of Littleton to treat wastewater transmitted from the District at the Littleton - Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant. Littleton directly bills Platte Canyon customers for treatment services. All revenue produced from the sanitary sewer charges is retained by the City and used for treatment related services.

Littleton City Council also discussed the possibility of changing the basis for residential sanitary sewer charges from a flat fee per residential unit to a charge based on water consumption during winter months. The rationale for a water-based consumption based charge is that it more equitably distributes costs based on the actual amount of wastewater generated. Water meter readings during the winter months when there is little or no outdoor irrigation are the basis by which sanitary sewer charges are determined.

Littleton is also considering billing for sewer service more frequently than once

Please see [Sewer Rates](#) on page 3

Denver Water rate increase shifts costs to suburban customers

The Denver Board of Water Commissioners adopted a 5.5 percent rate increase for 2012 for all customers of Denver Water. What is different about the decision this year is that the Board ignored the comprehensive rate model used for over 20 years and allocated additional revenue needs to all categories of customers irrespective of their proportion of costs. Platte Canyon and other distributors strenuously opposed the rate increase for its unfair distribution of costs. According to the historical rate model, Platte Canyon customers should have received no increase in rates for 2012.

City of Denver residents, on the other hand, should have received a 12.4 percent increase rather than 5.5 percent. According

to Platte Canyon's manager, the Denver Water Board's decision clearly and inequitably shifts costs from Denver citizens to suburban customers. The estimated amount of the subsidy for Denver rate payers is \$4,000,000. Individually for Platte Canyon customers, the difference between the adopted rates and the modeled rates is \$27 per year.

The Platte Canyon Board of Directors will continue to vigorously oppose Denver Water's efforts to shift costs to suburban users and will continue to evaluate its options to protect District customers from further overcharges. A comparison between existing 2011 water rates and the water rates that will go into effect on January 1, 2012 is shown below.

Block	Monthly Consumption (gallons)	2011 Rate (per 1,000 gal.)	2012 Rate (per 1,000 gal.)
1	0 - 11,000	\$2.36	\$2.49
2	12,000 - 30,000	\$4.72	\$4.98
3	31,000 - 40,000	\$7.08	\$7.47
4	over 40,000	\$9.44	\$9.96

Planning for the future

A draft budget for 2012 and 10-year capital plan for 2012 - 2021 have been submitted to the Platte Canyon Board of Directors for review. A copy of each of these important documents is available for citizen's review at the District's office at 8739 W. Coal Mine

Ave., Littleton, CO. A public hearing on the draft budget is scheduled for 8:30 a.m., Friday November 18, 2011 at the District office. Once the budget and capital plan are approved by the Board of Directors, they will be posted on the District's Web site (www.plattecanyon.org).

Are You Living in a FOG-gy home?

Scott Morse

This edition's distinguished employee is Scott Morse, the District's assistant manager. Scott began his employment with Platte Canyon in 1985 as a temporary maintenance employee. When he completed college in 1988, Scott was hired as an administrative assistant. He became the District's assistant manager in 2001.

Scott's numerous responsibilities include: information technology manage-



Scott Morse

ment, including all computer networking and programming duties, contract administration, purchasing management, and human relations. Scott coordinated the development of the District's computerized mapping system and automated supervisory control and data acquisition programs which allow for centralized monitoring and control of District water and wastewater pumping stations and sewer flow monitoring sites. He was instrumental in setting up the District's asset management software. His unique computer and problem solving skills have enhanced the efficiency of many District administrative and maintenance operations.

Scott is a Denver, Colorado native. He graduated from Denver South High School and attended Arizona State University before obtaining a Bachelors of Science degree in Computer Management and Science from Metropolitan State College. He is married and has two sons, Cameron, 13 and Donovan, 10.

In his spare time Scott enjoys coaching his sons in basketball and baseball.

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.

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:

Use sewer lines for wash waters and human wastes only.

Never pour non-water-soluble substances, such as grease, cooking or motor oil, cat litter or rags, into your toilets, sinks, or storm-drains.

Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can or trash for disposal.

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.

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

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 in the prevention of costly and environmentally damaging sewage backups and overflows.

Please Note: Most sewage backups occur in the service line between Platte Canyon'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.

Platte Canyon makes every effort to protect its customers against sewage backups. Under the District's preventative maintenance program launched in the mid-1970s, 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 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!

As a service to District customers, Platte Canyon offers two FREE brochures that will aid them in this fight. The first brochure is titled, *Fat-Free Sewers: How to Prevent Fats, Oils, and Greases from Damaging Your Home and the Environment*, which provides an overview of FOGs and suggestions on how to prevent them. The second brochure is, *What You Should Know About Your Sewer System*. This brochure includes a brief explanation of what your sewer system does and how it works and how to determine if you have a sewer line problem. It also includes important information of sewer service line ownership and maintenance responsibilities, how to avoid sewer repair scams, and the importance of obtaining sewer backup insurance coverage.

If you would like to obtain a copy of these brochures, stop by the District office located at 8739 W. Coal Mine Ave., Littleton, CO 80123 or call 303-979-2333 to request a copy of the brochure(s) be mailed to you at no charge.

If you have any questions about your sewer service line or the wastewater treatment process, please call Scott Hand, operations supervisor at 303-979-2333.

2011 Water Quality Report

Denver Water began mailing the 2011 Water Quality Report directly to Platte Canyon customers in June. The report contains a wealth of information about not only the quality of your water but, also, about where your water comes from and how it is treated before it



Water Quality Report

is delivered to your home or business.

Providing high quality water to District customers at adequate, consistent pressure is a team effort. Denver Water acquires the water resource,

treats it to a level that meets or exceeds all state and federal standards and supplies it to Platte Canyon. The District's duty is to preserve and protect the excellent quality of the water as it moves through District owned pipes and pumping stations to your tap. District Manager, Pat Fitzgerald says, "We are very proud of the part we play in Denver Water's being able to assert that Denver Water has never been cited for violating a health standard."

If you did not receive a copy of the 2011 Water Quality Report, please contact Alyssa Quinn at the District office (303-979-2333) and she will have a copy delivered to you or you can access it via our Web site www.plattecanyon.org/repository/Documents/Water%20Quality/2011WaterQualityReport.pdf.

Sewer Rates

Continued from page 1

per year. City staff is developing alternatives for presentation to City Council during a yet to be scheduled study session.

If you are interested in obtaining more information, or commenting on these proposals as they are developed, please monitor the Platte Canyon and Littleton Web sites (www.plattecanyon.org and www.littletongov.org).

District completes sewer repair in Bowles Ave.

Several weeks ago Platte Canyon maintenance crews discovered a large obstruction in the District's primary outfall sewer pipe in W. Bowles Ave. between S. Lowell Blvd (Platte Canyon Rd.) and S. Middlefield Rd. It was determined that the only way to remove the obstruction was to excavate and remove a portion of the 24-inch concrete pipe.

Due to the very heavy volume of traffic using Bowles Ave., the District worked extensively with other utility owners and the City of Littleton to minimize traffic disruption and the impact on local businesses. The plan called for working constantly over a three-day period including a Saturday and Sunday when traffic volumes are lower. ENS Consulting, LLC designed the project for the District and Brannan Construction was retained to conduct the construction work.

The work began on Thursday October 6, 2011 and despite heavy rain and the first snowstorm of the season the project was completed by 2:00 p.m., Sunday October 9.

Congratulations for completion of the project within budget and prescribed time limits goes out to Rich Cassens with ENS Consultants, LLC, Rick Donovan and the crew from Brannan Construction, Scott Hand, Platte Canyon operations supervisor, and City of Littleton engineering staff.



3 days later

Denver Water top-notch — utility takes second in national taste test

Denver Water placed second in a taste test among water utilities across the nation at the American Water Works Association's annual Best of the Best Water Taste in Washington, D.C. The event, composed of regional winners from water-tasting competitions across North America, was part of AWWA's Annual Conference and Exposition.

"We are proud Denver Water placed so highly in this national taste test," said Ken Pollock, superintendent of water treatment for

Denver Water. "Our mission is to provide our customers with high-quality water and excellent service. This honor reflects the dedication and commitment that Denver Water employees have to high-quality water."



Denver Water moved on to the national competition after placing first in a taste test among water utilities in Colorado, Wyoming and New Mexico at the AWWA Rocky Mountain Section's

annual conference at Keystone Resort in Colorado last September.

Saving water saves energy: Make the Drops-to-Watts Connection

It's time for a new way to think about water and energy

With climate change concerns, pervasive droughts, and high energy prices across the country, nearly everyone is looking for ways to conserve resources and cut costs. The good news is that by using a little “water sense” we can all use less water, energy, and money.

It's time for a new way of thinking about using water and energy more efficiently. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's)

WaterSense program can help you save both. One way to do this is to look for the ENERGY STAR label on appliances and other products that use water and energy.

Drops and Watts: You can't have one without the other

Many Americans know about the importance of saving energy, and many know about the importance of saving water.

But many do not think about the direct connection between saving both. We turn on the bathroom lights and the shower without realizing how closely related water and electricity are to each other.

On average, the annual energy used to deliver, heat, and treat water for only 10 households could power a refrigerator for a year. In some areas of the country, that estimate is very low. For example, in parts of Southern California it takes as much as six times more electricity to supply water to the same number of



homes — that's nearly enough electricity to power a whole house for a year. Heating water for bathing, shaving, cooking, and cleaning also requires a considerable amount of energy. Homes with electric water heaters, for example, spend one-quarter of their electric bill just to heat water.

Given how closely related saving water is to saving energy, one of the best ways to

save energy across the country and in our own home is to use water more efficiently.

How can we start saving?

One of the simplest ways to save both water and energy is to install water-efficient products. WaterSense labeled products not only save water, but can help reduce energy bills. Installing WaterSense labeled faucet aerators in your bathrooms, for example, costs just a few dollars but could save you enough electricity to dry your hair every day for a year!

You can choose from hundreds of WaterSense labeled products. What's more, you can be sure the products will not only save resources, but will perform well. WaterSense labeled products must undergo independent, third-party testing and certification to ensure they meet EPA's criteria for both efficiency and performance.

Look for WaterSense labeled products and start saving both water and energy!

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

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



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