



# Your Water

Summer 2006

Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District is governed by a five-member elected Board of Directors. The Board meets at the District office, 8739 W. Coal Mine Avenue at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Citizens are welcome and encouraged to attend.

## What you can learn from the Web site

This is a brief summary of what you will find at the new Platte Canyon Web site [www.plattecanyon.org](http://www.plattecanyon.org).

- The latest news about Platte Canyon. The information posted on this page will be updated frequently and will keep customers informed about important and interesting activities.
- Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District's Mission Statement.
- The history of the District including information pertaining to the numerous intergovernmental agreements Platte Canyon has with Denver Water, City of Littleton and other water and sewer districts.
- Biographical information about the District's Board of Directors and staff members.
- Maps of the District's service area and the service areas of the three water and sanitation districts in which Platte Canyon provides administrative and facility maintenance services by intergovernmental agreement.
- Financial information including the current budget, latest audit and 10-year financial plan.
- A comprehensive statistical report listing of District assets, customer information, maintenance activities and much more.
- Board of Directors meeting agendas and meeting minutes.
- Billing, rate and fee schedules and contact information.
- General and technical information for developers, builders and interested parties including:
  - ✓ water and sewer construction plan submittal requirements
  - ✓ facility relocation guidelines
  - ✓ water and sanitary sewer tap permit purchasing procedures
  - ✓ annexation requirements
  - ✓ water and sanitary sewer technical specifications
  - ✓ fire hydrant use permit information

Please See Web site on page 2

## Platte Canyon launches new Web site to tell water story

In an effort to provide more detailed and timely information to District customers, Platte Canyon has launched a Web site at [www.plattecanyon.org](http://www.plattecanyon.org). Because

it has been capable of in the past. Understanding that not all customers have access to the internet, we will continue to mail occasional newsletters to our customers to inform them about important financial, governance and construction project matters.

We encourage all of our customers to visit the Web site and provide comments by emailing us at [info@plattecanyon.org](mailto:info@plattecanyon.org), or calling Barrie Brinkley at 303-979-2333.



**Above: District home page at [www.plattecanyon.org](http://www.plattecanyon.org)**

Platte Canyon's agreements with Denver Water and City of Littleton require those entities to bill customers directly for water and sanitary sewer service, the District does not have an opportunity to transmit information to customers with their utility bills.

The District mails occasional newsletters to customers, but has found that particular method of communication both costly and inadequate for providing as much information as quickly as we would like.

The Web site will enable the District to disseminate more thorough and detailed information in a more timely manner than

## New Board member

Sixteen-year Board member Samuel Lukens III has been replaced on the Platte Canyon Board of Directors by Richard Spielman. Re-elected to the Board in addition to Mr. Spielman were incumbents



**Richard Spielman**

Anthony Dursey and Kenneth Bradford. All three directors will serve until May 2008.

Mr. Spielman is a 40-year resident of Platte Canyon. He was born in Manhattan, N.Y., but grew up in Bloomfield, N.J. He graduated from Purdue University and moved to Colorado in 1966. Mr. Spielman has been actively involved in Jefferson County community and governmental activities. He served as a trustee for the Jefferson County Library District for 14 years and was a member of the Board of the Columbine Knolls Recreation District. He is currently a member of the Foothills Foundation and belongs to the Lions Club.

## Web site from page 1

- A section that lists some of the most frequently asked questions that are posed to District staff together with their responses.

- An archive of past District news stories.
- Copies of current and past District newsletters.

- Employment openings and application forms.

- An extensive water conservation and Xeriscape gardening section including information about upcoming Xeriscape seminars.

- Water quality information including the latest annual **Water Quality Report** containing a wealth of information about the source of your water, treatment processes, and water quality standards. Backflow prevention requirement information is also provided in this section.

- Platte Canyon's latest Capital Master Plan listing construction projects proposed for the next five years.

- Current information on the status of District construction projects including maps and address listings of homes and businesses directly affected by each project.

- Grease and sand interceptor information for commercial customers.

- An exciting, educational and fun students and teachers section with interactive games, activities, and links for kids — and "young at heart" adults — as well as water education resources and programs for teachers.

- Links to many Web sites that Platte Canyon customers may find useful and informational.

- Contact section which allows customers and Web site users to submit questions and comments to District staff and Board members.

*We sincerely hope you will take a few minutes to visit the District's new Web site. Your comments and suggestions are very welcome.*

## Sanitary Sewer Service Rates and Fees

Type of Use	2005	2006
Single Family Residence	\$128.70	\$141.57
Multi-Family Residence	\$109.40	\$120.33
Commercial (1,000 gal.)	\$1.40	\$1.54

### Tap Fees

Single Family Residential	\$1,350	\$1,610
Other (based on water tap size)	\$1,350*	\$1,610*

\*per 3/4-inch equivalent water tap

# Littleton raises sewer rates and tap fees

Littleton City Council recently voted to increase sewer rates and connection charges for 2006 for all sewer customers. Rates for Platte Canyon customers will increase 10 percent from \$128.70 to \$141.57 per year for a single family residence. Littleton residents will see a larger increase of 11.1 percent as their rates move from \$165.71 to \$184.13 per year. See chart at lower left for the complete rate and tap fee schedule.

Littleton residents are billed at a higher rate than Platte Canyon customers because the City includes the charges necessary to operate and maintain the City's sewer collection system pipes.

For several years, the Platte Canyon Board of Directors has encouraged the Littleton City Council to raise inside City rates to the level necessary to fully pay for services provided to their residents. Ken Bradford, Platte Canyon treasurer, stated that he was pleased to see the District's concerns are being addressed. "Sewer service charges for all customers are approaching levels representative of the full cost of services provided," stated Mr. Bradford.

Further, "While no one likes to see utility charge increases, Littleton sewer rates have traditionally been among the lowest in the state, and treatment plant administrators have implemented many efficiency measures to contain costs. Based on the District's evaluation of the rate increase proposal, the adjustment in service charges is justified and necessary."

Amy Conklin, Littleton City councilwoman, listed three reasons for the sewer rate increase.

- The City can no longer raid the expansion fund to subsidize treatment costs as it has for about the last 15 years.

- The Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant infrastructure is aging and is more expensive to maintain than when it was new.

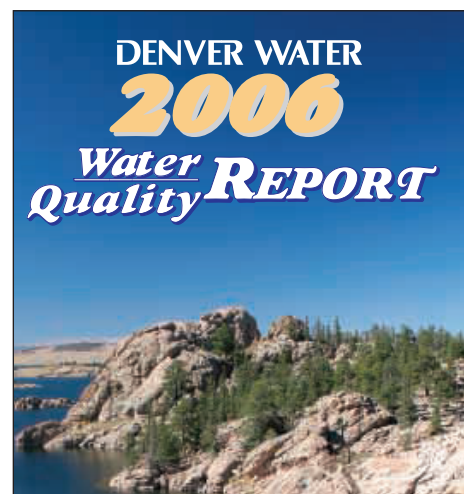
- The City has to meet unfunded state and federal mandates to make the effluent cleaner, and meet more stringent water quality standards.

One of the main factors causing the sewer rate increase is the current \$114 million rehabilitation and expansion of the Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant, 49 percent (\$55.7 million) of which is for infrastructure modernization and regulatory compliance which benefits all

current plant customers. Additional information pertaining to the treatment plant expansion can be found on the internet at [www.englewoodgov.org/home/index.asp?page=701](http://www.englewoodgov.org/home/index.asp?page=701).

Littleton representatives caution that additional rate increases will likely be necessary due to inflationary pressure and implementation of more stringent state and federal water quality regulations.

Platte Canyon customers should have received their 2006 sewer utility bill the second week of June.



Denver Water is currently mailing the 2006 *Water Quality Report* with Platte Canyon customer water bills. 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 is delivered to your home or business.

Providing high quality water to our 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. Our 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. Platte Canyon is very proud of the part it plays in Denver Water being able to assert that, "We've never been cited for violating a health standard."

If you did not receive a copy of the 2006 *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](http://www.plattecanyon.org).

## Platte Canyon prepares for construction season

With spring and summer comes construction season and a continuation of Platte Canyon's efforts to repair, rehabilitate, and replace portions of the District's water distribution and wastewater collection systems. The District anticipates expenditure of \$1.6 million for capital construction this year.

The first project, **rehabilitation of 3,600 feet of sanitary sewer pipe in W. Rowland Ave. and S. Sheridan Blvd. in the Normandy Estates Subdivision**, was completed in May at a cost of \$97,398.

Two water main replacement projects are in the engineering design stage and are scheduled to go to construction in July. The first project consists of **replacement of 1,520 feet of water pipe in S. Depew Wy. between S. Depew St. and W. Canyon Trail in the Columbine Hills Subdivision**. This project is projected to cost \$171,350.

The second water construction project calls for **replacement of a large 16-inch diameter pipeline in S. Webster St. between W. Glasgow Pl. and W. Frost Dr. in the Columbine West Subdivision**. The estimated cost of this project is \$281,750.

A fourth construction project proposes **connection of Platte Canyon's main out-fall sanitary sewer to a new interceptor sewer being constructed by Roxborough Park Metropolitan District**. If an agreement is reached between Platte Canyon and Roxborough, Platte Canyon will be able to remove its Platte River Sewage Lift Station from active service. Construction necessary to by-pass the lift station and



**Platte River Sewage Lift Station**

connect to Roxborough's pipe will proceed in late 2006 pending successful negotiations between the two Districts.

Additional updated information pertaining to the District's 2006 capital improvement program is available on the District's Web site at [www.plattecanyon.org](http://www.plattecanyon.org).

## Robert G. Koran Memorial Garden dedicated



The Platte Canyon and Southwest Metropolitan Boards of Directors dedicated the Robert G. Koran Memorial Xeriscape Demonstration Garden on June 23, 2006. The garden, located at the District's office building at 8739 W. Coal Mine Avenue, serves as a model of the

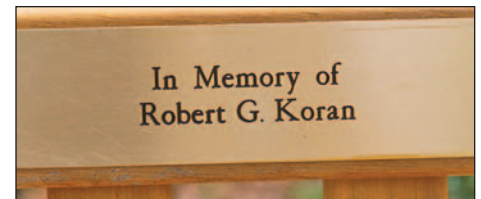


**Robert G. Koran**

beauty, functionality and water use efficiency that can be achieved using Xeriscape gardening principles.

The Xeriscape garden provides a setting where Platte Canyon and Southwest Metropolitan District customers can view several types of arid landscape plants during various stages of growth in all seasons of the year.

The Districts have been very active in their support and promotion of water efficient landscaping. Each spring a series of Xeriscape gardening and irrigation seminars is conducted by well-known horticulturalists, landscape designers, and irrigation experts. The new Xeriscape garden will be



integrated into the seminar series as a live, easily accessible example of Xeriscape concepts.

The Boards of Directors of Platte Canyon and Southwest Metropolitan have designated the new garden the Robert G. Koran Memorial Xeriscape Garden in honor of Robert "Bob" Koran who served on the Southwest Metropolitan Board from 1994 to 2004. Mr. Koran was born and raised in the southwest metropolitan Denver area and spent much of his professional and social life in the community. His parents, Pauline and Robert, owned and farmed much of the land that is now the Columbine Hills, Columbine West, Columbine Knolls and Columbine Knolls South Subdivisions. Bob Koran passed away in September of 2004.

Anthony Dursey, president of Southwest Metropolitan stated, "Naming the District's Xeriscape garden after Bob is an appropriate tribute to someone who dedicated a great deal of energy and enthusiasm to bringing reliable, cost effective, high quality water and sanitation services to the citizens of Southwest Metropolitan."

Please visit the District's Web site at [www.plattecanyon.org](http://www.plattecanyon.org) for additional information on Xeriscape gardening and the Xeriscape seminar program.

# Three new employees help keep the water flowing

Platte Canyon Water and Sanitation District would like to extend a warm welcome to three recently hired operations employees, John Mathias, Steve McAllister, and Johnathan Dix.

John Mathias, a native Denverite, is a graduate of Cherry Creek High School. He graduated from Arapahoe Community College's Emergency Medical Technical program before joining the U.S. Marines in 1994 where he managed airfields for four years. He joins the Platte Canyon staff after being employed for five years at Kacey Fine Furniture. John enjoys the challenges of

his work responsibilities. He is married and in his free time practices Kendo and various forms of swordsmanship.



**John Mathias**

Steve McAllister also joins Platte Canyon after being employed six years at Kacey Fine Furniture. Steve was born in Dallas, Texas and lived there for 10 years before his family moved to Colorado. He is a graduate of Green Mountain High School and Red Rocks Community College with a degree in Business and Accounting. Steve is currently pursuing studies in the area of financial services.

He is engaged to be married this August and in his spare time enjoys playing golf. Asked what he liked most about his employment at Platte Canyon, Steve replied

that he appreciated that the work was challenging and enjoyed the work environment at the District.



**Steve McAllister**

Our most recent new employee is Johnathan Dix. Johnathan is a Colorado native from Englewood having graduated from Chatfield High School. He joins Platte Canyon after serving four years in the U.S. Army where he was stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky., as a team leader in the Infantry. Johnathan is single and in his free time enjoys hiking, fishing, and hunting.

John's, Steve's, and Johnathan's duties will frequently include responding to customer service calls, problem solving, and performing maintenance on the District's water and sanitary sewer service lines.

You may see these men arriving in a Platte Canyon truck to fix water or wastewater problems throughout the District.



**Johnathan Dix**



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

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