

3217 D Road Clifton, CO 81520

Clifton Sanitation District

### **BOARD MEMBERS:**

Kent Brumback

- Chairman
- Mike Konn
- Director
- Greg Martin
- · Secretary/Treasurer
- Dale Welch
- Director
- David Stassen
- Director

### **Ouestions or Comments?**

If you have any questions, comments, concerns, or need more information about the facility, please contact the District at 434-7422 or stop by the office at 3217 D Road in Clifton. You may also submit comments online at our Web site www.cliftonsanitation.com. We value your input and comments.

On the Web Visit our Web site

www.cliftonsanitation.com for frequently asked questions, such as sewer backups and how to avoid future backups. You can also find upcoming meetings, rates, services, and other information. If you don't have access to a computer, please call us at 970-434-7422.

### **Remember to Call Before You Dig**

Colorado 811 | 811 or 1-800-922-1987 www.co811.org

# Stop Illegal Dumping... If You See It, Report It

Illegal/illicit dumping can be a major cause of water pollution. Public witness complaints provide the most common source of information. To report illegal/illicit dumping, call the Clifton Sanitation District office at 970-434-7422.

When a complaint is received, the Clifton Sanitation District investigates and, when possible, assembles evidence for prosecution. The case is then released to the appropriate state and federal authorities. A reward of up to \$500 will be given to any witness(es) providing information leading to the conviction for violation of "unlawful disposal" into the sanitary sewer system.

# IN CASE OF EMERGENCY 970-434-7422 or 911



For any questions about the rates please contact **Clifton Sanitation District** 970-434-7422



For billing questions please contact **Clifton Water District** 970-434-7328

### PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE **PAID** GRAND JCT., CO PERMIT NO. 34

**Wastewater Treatment Facility Project** 

CLIFTON SANITATION DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2013

**Wastewater Treatment Facility Project** 

**Drain Questions** 

Special District **Association of Colorado Board Member** of the Year

We Couldn't Have Done it Without You!

**2014 Rates** 

**American Water Works** Study

**Call Before You Dig** 

**Illegal Dumping** 

...to provide excellent wastewater service of the highest possible standards at the lowest practical cost in keeping with sound business practice and the public trust. We will conduct cooperative affairs with the highest degree of integrity. We will serve the needs of consumers fairly and impartially. We proclaim district development in the best interest of public health and to improve harmony with the natural environment.

The District has contracted with Dewberry Engineering to design upgrades to the Wastewater Treatment Facility in order to reduce effluent phosphorus concentrations below 1 mg/L. The project is being funded, in part, by an Energy Impact Grant.

Last summer, the State of Colorado adopted new standards for wastewater treatment plants to reduce the amount of

nitrogen and phosphorus discharged to the State's streams and reservoirs. Treatment plants, like the District's, that treat more than two million gallons of wastewater each day. will be required to reduce their treated water concentrations of nitrogen to less than 15 mg/L and phosphorus to less than 1 mg/L. One mg/L is equivalent to one part per million. To put that in perspective, that's the



equivalent of one drop of vermouth in a railroad tanker car full of gin, or the equivalent of getting only four minutes of vacation time each year! And yet, algae blooms can be triggered in natural water bodies when the phosphorus concentration reaches 0.05 mg/L or 50 ug/L. Algae blooms are harmful because they can reduce the amount of oxygen available to fish and produce toxic compounds. Nutrients, like nitrogen and phosphorus, can also encourage the growth of nuisance plants and animals, which can crowd out native species.

The District's treatment facility discharges treated wastewater to a section of the Colorado River that is home to a wide variety of wildlife including Great Blue Herons, Bald Eagles, Leopard Frogs, and the endangered fish species Humpback Chub, Bonytail, Colorado Pikeminnow, and Razorback Sucker. Taking care of the river is a high priority for the District for both ecological and financial reasons.

The treatment process relies on microorganisms to consume the organic matter in raw wastewater and convert it to bacterial colonies called flocs. Individual floc particles are too small to be seen with the naked eye, but they are heavy enough to settle out rapidly from treated wastewater. The treatment process consists of a biological reactor called an aeration basin and a settling tank called a clarifier. When the process is working well, organic "food" enters the treatment plant and is mixed with the bacteria and other microorganisms in the aeration basin. Then, the mixture of treated wastewater and floc particles is transferred to the clarifier. Here, the flocs settle to the bottom and the clean, treated water flows out over the top to the next process: disinfection. Filaments are bacteria that grow in long chains. In small numbers, they form the scaffolding, or backbone, of the floc particle. Without them, the flocs could not grow big enough to settle in the clarifier. If there are too many

filaments, however, then they grow outside the floc and can even connect floc particles together. This slows down the settling and makes treatment difficult.

Fortunately. phosphorus removal and filament control can both be accomplished using a combination of biological treatment and chemical addition. Dewberry is designing anaerobic selectors and a chemical feed system that will be integrated into



the existing treatment process. Anaerobic means without any oxygen present. An anaerobic tank can reduce the number of filaments that grow in the treatment process. Most filaments can't tolerate being without oxygen even for short periods of time. An anaerobic zone can also remove phosphorus by encouraging the growth of very specialized bacteria that are capable of removing phosphorus from wastewater. Biological phosphorus removal is the most cost effective method available for reducing effluent phosphorus concentrations.

The District looks forward to reducing effluent phosphorus concentrations below state requirements and helping to preserve our beautiful state for future generations to enjoy. If you have questions or would like a tour of the treatment plant, please contact the District at 970-434-7422.

### **Drain Questions?**



Unsure whether or not that leftover weed killer or cat litter is safe to put down the drain? The District recently posted to our Web site, www.cliftonsanitation.com, a "Household Waste Chart" that contains a long list of common household chemicals and the preferred methods for disposing of them. Some items, like ammonia based cleaners, water based glue, and trisodium phosphate paintbrush cleaner, are safe to put down the drain. Other items, such as personal care products, baby wipes, and pharmaceuticals, should be placed in the trash. Others, such as gasoline, kerosene, and shoe polish, should be considered hazardous waste and don't belong down the drain or in the trash. Instead, save these types of items for a community-wide collection day or take them to a licensed hazardous waste contractor for disposal. Our wastewater treatment facility is a biological treatment process and can't handle everything that might be put down the drain. Some substances can even be harmful. Help us to keep providing excellent wastewater treatment by following the guide and keeping hazardous materials out of drains.

(970) 434-7422 • 3217 D Road Clifton, CO 81520 • www.cliftonsanitation.com

### Special District Association of Colorado Board Member of the Year!



the mill levy.

The Special District Association of Colorado honored Gregory Martin, board member of the Clifton Sanitation District, with the 2013 Board Member of the Year Award. The Association annually presents this award to a Special District board member who has demonstrated outstanding leadership, dedication, and service to their District. Greg is in his 30th year of service on the Clifton Sanitation Board.

Greg has been a cornerstone of the District since the beginning of his service in the following ways;

- Retiring the District's initial bond several years early and abolishing
- Consolidating Clifton Sanitation District #1 and Clifton Sanitation District #2 in 2005, removing duplication of governmental
  services.
- Developing a cooperative Intergovernmental Agreement with the Whitewater Public Improvement District to provide wastewater treatment
- Making the District the first wastewater treatment facility to meet the federally-mandated ammonia discharge requirements for the designated section of the Colorado River.
- Constructing the new facilities and transformation which involved numerous public and private entities.

Greg is the president and owner of Grand Mesa Mechanical Inc., and has brought extensive knowledge and a wealth of experience to the District. He was drawn to serve on the Clifton Sanitation Board because of his former work experiences and always wanting to give back to the community.

Greg has provided leadership and has been diligent with meeting the challenges of a community that has been impacted several times during his tenure with the boom and bust cycles of an energy-impacted community. In addition to regional growth issues, the District has been challenged with the state and federal discharge requirements. Clifton Sanitation District has achieved many accomplishments that the community and customers can be proud of, thanks, in large part, to the hard work and dedication

demonstrated by Greg Martin. The goal was to go beyond a state-of-the-art wastewater treatment facility and incorporate the local culture, community, and environment, and to meet the regulatory requirements.

Greg's priorities are most evident in his commitment to the citizens of the community and to his constituents. He has been a support in developing and maintaining high standards regarding the quality of the facilities and the services the District provides.

Greg has not only been a cornerstone of the District, he has also made extraordinary contributions outside the District in the Grand Valley. Greg has an extensive list of local accomplishments, including:

- Clifton Fire Protection District Board member 1982-1990
- Volunteer Fireman member 1979-2013
- Assistant Fire Chief 1987-2013
- Awarded the "Phoenix Award" (saving a life-CPR, etc.) more than once.
- Grand Junction Lions Club "Hometown Hero" November 2003. This
  award is in recognition of individuals who spend a great deal of time
  and effort in support of meeting a community need. The award is
  intended to honor someone in the community whose work has not
  been recognized, and whose efforts are generally unsung.
- Generously donated countless items and time to the Clifton Fire Protection District.
- Supports and sponsors many local community organizations such as Grand Mesa, Orchard Mesa, and Monument Little League baseball.
- One of his proudest accomplishments is his sponsorship and participation in the Western Slope Honor Flight in 2010. Greg participated as an Honor Flight Medical Team member, helping to fly more than 500



World War II Veterans from the Western Slope to Washington, D.C., to view the National World War II Memorial.

### We Couldn't Have Done it Without You!

### **Delta Correctional Center**

The facility currently houses 480 inmates and has a staff of 131. Many inmates assigned to DCC work off-grounds on assignments for local, state, federal, and non-profit agencies, saving Colorado taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars each year. The DCC inmates have provided labor services for Clifton Sanitation District for more than 15 years, to beautify Clifton Sanitation District's Wastewater Treatment Plant and help with other projects around the facility. The inmates have been a valuable labor resource to Clifton Sanitation District. They have put in many hard-working hours to help make the facility look like a park with its natural habitat and amazing landscape. The inmates have installed fences, planted grapevines, and removed tamarisk and Russian olive trees around the Colorado River. Clifton Sanitation District would like to thank the Delta Correctional Center staff and inmates for their

continued support to help make our wastewater treatment plant look extraordinary!

Mesa County Criminal Justice Services: The Criminal Justice Services has a program called Useful Public Services (UPS). This program coordinates and monitors clients sentenced by the courts to complete a designated number of public service hours. UPS assigns some of the clients to complete their hours here at Clifton Sanitation District, with no cost to the District. A total of 1,116 hours were worked here by UPS clients in 2013. They help with grounds maintenance, general labor, washing vehicles, and keeping the facility and grounds clean and looking fantastic. Thank you, Mesa County Criminal Justice Services. It is great to be part of your program!

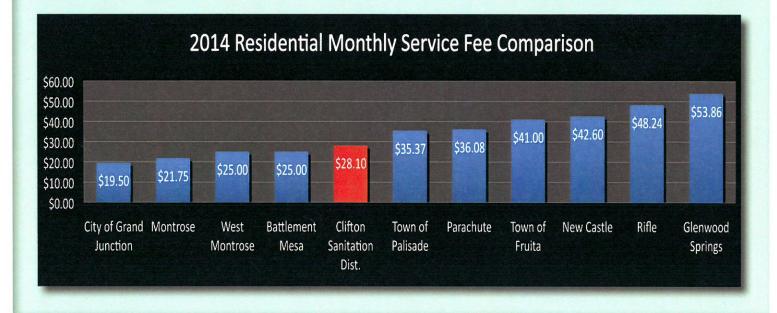
### **2014 Rates**

Clifton Sanitation District (District) provides wastewater treatment and collection service to approximately 5,000 customers who represent about 8,000 equivalent residential units (EQU) with a population of 21,000 people. The monthly sewer service charges are based upon the cost to collect, treat, and dispose of wastewater from one EQU. The District is an Enterprise Fund, is self-supporting from its own revenue sources, and does not receive any revenues from property or sales taxes. Charges for collection and treatment of wastewater comprise the funds for operations, maintenance, and debt service.

The District adopted a transition to cost-of-service rates over a multi-year period to mitigate customer bill impacts in 2011 to remain fiscally sound while paying for capital improvements and meeting regulatory laws and regulations. For residential customers, the District intends to continue its historic method of assessing flat rates. For commercial and industrial classifications, the District is transitioning to a consumptive-use method of assessing rates and charges. This will result in rate increases for most customers and rate decreases for some. These fees are intended to be the third step of a five-year transition to cost-of-service rates. The following table reflects the five-year rate structure adopted in 2011

The District's residential rates are expected to increase by approximately 3.3%, or \$0.90 per month. Residential and non-residential rate increases will be effective January 1, 2014. Annual rates are anticipated to increase 2.8% annually in 2015 and 2016.

Customer Type	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Residential, per EQU	\$26.40	\$27.20	\$28.10	\$28.90	\$29.70
Nonresidential (EQU<=1)					
First 4,000 gallons, per bill	\$26.40	\$27.20	\$28.10	\$28.90	\$29.70
Over 4,000 gallons, per Kgal	\$0.94	\$1.91	\$2.90	\$3.91	\$4.96
Nonresidential (EQU>1)					
Base Charge, per EQU	\$22.50	\$19.10	\$15.60	\$12.10	\$8.40
Volume Charge, per Kgal	\$0.94	\$1.91	\$2.90	\$3.91	\$4.96
Schools (Inside District)					
Base Charge, per EQU	\$7.00	\$7.70	\$7.80	\$8.00	\$8.40
Volume Charge, per Kgal	\$4.39	\$4.45	\$4.64	\$4.83	\$4.96
Whitewater, per Kgal	\$6.69	\$6.85	\$7.00	\$7.24	\$7.45
Schools (Outside District)					
Base Charge, per EQU	\$8.40	\$9.30	\$9.40	\$9.60	\$10.10
Volume Charge, per Kgal	\$5.27	\$5.34	\$5.57	\$5.80	\$5.96



## **American Water Works Study**

A biennial 2012 American Water Works Association study found the average monthly wastewater bill for a typical customer with 1.000 cubic feet (or 7,480 gallons) of usage, increased from

\$34.18 to \$39.31 per month from 2010 to 2012. According to the report, that 7.5 % annual increase has outpaced annualized inflationary increases of 2.5%.