

Water Views

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTHGATE WATER AND SANITATION DISTRICTS

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JULY, 2011

“ WE BUILT OUR REPUTATION FROM THE GROUND DOWN! ”



This year the Southgate Water District and the Southgate Sanitation District celebrate 50 years of service to our community. We look forward to, and have been actively planning for, the next 50 years.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

To each of us the most important thing about water is that when we turn on the faucet we receive water of high quality and reliable delivery.

To this end the Southgate Water District obtains its water through contract with the Denver Water Department. (Note: for those of you who are in the Southgate Sanitation District but not in the Southgate Water District the following may or may not be applicable and urge that you contact your water provider for information on the source and delivery of your water.)

Since the 1800s Denver has been purchasing and developing surface flow water rights on both the East and West slopes. This raw water is transported by streams, ditches, reservoirs, tunnels and pipes to the Denver System. Flows are carefully monitored in relation to the annual snow melt and the demands of water system customers.



Treatment and testing are provided by Denver Water at several state of the art facilities. Having multiple treatment facilities ensures system strength and delivery reliability.

It is at this point that Denver delivers water into the Southgate system, either directly from Denver’s treated water reservoirs and conduits or through Southgate reservoirs and pumping facilities. From the reservoirs and conduits the water flows through Southgate pipes, control valves (to ensure appropriate service pressure at all topographic elevations through the District), and other fixtures to reach your home or business. There you turn the faucet and receive the accustomed flow of quality water.

2012 Election

On May 8, 2012, (provided that there are more candidates than seats to be filled), Southgate will conduct elections to fill three (3) seats on the Board of Directors of the Southgate Water District and to fill three (3) seats on the Board of Directors of the Southgate Sanitation District.

Permanent Mail-in Voter Status

Independent of the county voter lists, applications for permanent mail-in voter status in special district elections must be filed with the Designated Election Official of the special district(s) from which you wish to receive mail-in ballots. Southgate application forms are available on the Districts’ website (www.southgatedistricts.org) or at the Districts’ offices.

Applications may be submitted by delivery or mail (DEO, Southgate Water and Sanitation Districts, 3722 E. Orchard Rd., Centennial, CO 80121), FAX (303-779-0220), or email (dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org).

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Water Quality

Denver's water quality is ours as well.

Denver's annual Water Quality Report and Consumer Confidence Reports, (annual summaries of the quality of water provided to Denver-area customers), include easy to understand information about where our water comes from, what it contains and how the water measures up to standards set by regulatory agencies. The good news is that the water is of the highest quality. Denver Water reports that it has never violated a water quality standard. The exceptionally high quality of our drinking water can be attributed to the fact that its customers are among the first users of Rocky Mountain snowmelt and that the water department uses some of the most technologically advanced treatment processes available.

Water quality information is also available at Denver Water's web site, www.denverwater.org



Water Pipeline Corrosion

Water lines go unseen and without thought from the general public. Your water district, however, thinks about them on a daily basis. We work to be sure that they are periodically flushed to maintain high water quality, to be sure that the pressures are properly maintained, and to be sure that the valves and hydrants operate correctly. Additionally, we give attention to the age and condition of the pipe in order to prevent or minimize leaks or larger breaks.

One factor in this pipe protection effort is the understanding and response to conditions which would corrode the pipe over time.

Most metals are the product of a manufacturing process used to separate the metal from foreign materials, to combine elements to create a desired material, and to shape the resulting metal. Each step in this process adds energy to the metal.

Nature, on the other hand, works to create energy balance amongst the various materials. This happens through the movement of molecules from the material with higher energy to the material with lower energy. This movement of molecules is referred to as corrosion.

In a water system this circumstance can be found where a steel (iron) main connects to numerous copper service lines. Where the pipe is unprotected and where certain ground conditions are present (moisture and electrical currents) molecules from the higher energy steel line will slowly but surely move to the copper line. The progressive loss of material from the steel line leads to a weakening of the wall of the pipe and to eventual leaks.

Pipeline corrosion is counteracted in a number of ways, including: 1) coating or wrapping materials to insulate the pipe from corrosive action, 2) use of alternative materials such as PVC pipe, 3) installation of sacrificial materials (anodes) with even higher energy levels such that the sacrificial material corrodes instead of the steel or the copper pipe, 4) introduction of an intentional electric current directed toward the pipe to be protected such that electric currents cannot carry molecules away from the pipe.

Southgate has moved affirmatively to counteract the effects of pipeline corrosion. We specify installation of PVC and protectively wrapped ductile iron pipe in new installations. On larger pipes we have additionally installed sacrificial anodes.

Our goal, as always, is to do the worrying so that you do not have to. We do this with the objective of minimizing service disruptions and leaks, and the further objective of making your investment in the water system last as long as possible before the costs of reconstruction are incurred.

Emergency Water Shutdown

We work hard to properly maintain the water distribution lines but do, from time to time, experience small leaks and large ruptures. Should you see water coming up through the pavement (leak) or witness a water spout (rupture) please call 24/7 to our 303-779-0261 phone line.

Our crew will be dispatched immediately to the scene to identify the circumstance and shutdown the main lines, (followed by excavation and repair). The time that it takes to shutdown the main lines is affected by delay in our becoming aware of the situation, crew response from within the District (weekday business hours) versus evening or weekend response from home, and the ability to locate/access/operate the mainline valves. We will continue doing everything possible to ensure timely emergency response.

Plain Talk About Drinking Water

How can I locate my home's master valve?

It is important to know where the master valve is in case you have a major leak. The most common locations in your house or apartment are:

- Where the water supply enters your home.
- Near your clothes-washer hook-up.
- Near your water heater.

To determine if the valve you have found is the correct one, try turning it off and see if it shuts off all water faucets in your home. If not, repeat this process with each valve you find until you identify the correct one. If you are unable to locate it, contact your plumber for assistance. Once you've found the valve, it's a good idea to mark it with something distinctive like bright paint, a tag, or ribbon. This will help you locate it quickly in case of an emergency. (Southgate Note - It is a good idea to turn the valve off and on several times, at least once a year, to keep the valve in proper operating condition.)

Is it okay to use hot water from the tap for cooking?

No. Use cold water. Hot water is more likely to contain rust, copper, and lead from your household plumbing and water heater because these contaminants generally dissolve into hot water from the plumbing faster than into cold water.

While we're on the subject of hot water, here's a good conservation tip: insulating your hot water pipes will help keep the water in them warm between hot water uses. Thus, after the first use of the day, hot water will come to the tap sooner, conserving water.

(Reprinted from *Plain Talk About Drinking Water*, by permission, Copyright © 2001, American Water Works Association)

Water Trivia

Q. What percentage of the world's water is readily available for humans to use?

A. 97% of the water on earth is salty ocean and 2% is frozen. Less than 1% is available to meet human needs.

Q. Public water systems produce billions of gallons of drinking water every day, more than 180 gallons per person. What percentage of that is consumed by people?

A. Typically, less than 1% of the treated drinking water produced by utilities is actually consumed by people. Most goes for lawns, showers and tubs, toilets, etc

Water Conservation



What Happens When We Flush?

It is true that most of us want to know little more about our sewer system than that it functions properly when we drain the sink or flush the toilet. It is, however, an important part of our everyday lives and can be personally traumatic and environmentally damaging when it does not work properly.

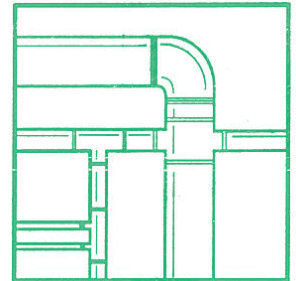
The Southgate sanitary sewer system (separate from the municipal or county storm sewer systems) serves a population in the range of 85,000. Our service area runs from Belleview on the north to a mile south of Lincoln. This service area is divided by topography into a number of natural drainage basins, which are individually served by outfall sewer lines ranging in size from 8 inches to 42 inches in diameter.

When you flush, the wastewater moves through your private sewer service line until it reaches the District maintained line in the street adjacent to your property. That pipe joins others, and then even more until they connect with one of the basin outfall lines.

Flows continue to aggregate and move northwesterly to the Littleton/Englewood Wastewater Treatment Plant (located adjacent to the South Platte River).

As the wastewater enters the plant debris is removed by screens. The progressively cleaner water moves through grit chambers (to drop out sand and gravel), settling basins (where heavy organic matter is removed), trickling filters and solids contact tanks (where bacteria consume most of the remaining organic materials), clarifiers, another set of trickling filters (to remove potentially harmful nutrients and ammonia), chlorine contact and then discharge to the river. The discharge meets or exceeds stringent environmental regulations.

Southgate (responsible for collecting and transporting wastewater) and Englewood (through their role in the Wastewater Treatment Plant) work together to provide worry-free service to you. You should seldom have to think about the sewer system. That is what we are here for!



Foreign Materials in Sewer

The Southgate Sanitation District Rules and Regulations defines foreign materials as: *“Objects, materials or substances which are not appropriate for transmission by a sanitary sewage system, including without limitation paving or construction materials or debris, furniture, appliances, clothing, bicycles, rocks, dirt, trash, grease, oil, sand, and grass, bush or tree clippings, or any unauthorized material or substance.”*

In previous issues of WaterViews we have strongly cautioned against disposal of cooking grease into the sewer system.

In this issue we strongly caution against disposal of baby wipes and paper diapers into the sewer system. Such materials have been more problematic for service lines than for the District mains. Sewer service lines are usually four inches (4”) in diameter and have relatively low flow. Cloth like materials have a tendency to fall out of the flow and create blockages which can result in flooding within the home.

A+ Establishment

We previously reported that the Southgate Sanitation is stepping up its grease investigation and enforcement programs and that an “A+ Establishment” program has been established to recognize commercial establishments that are doing a particularly good job. Under this program a certificate of recognition is issued and less frequent inspections are required.

We are pleased to advise that the following establishments have been awarded “A+ Establishment” certificates for their outstanding environmental stewardship.

Previously reported:

Red Robin – Arapahoe (8585 E. Arapahoe Road), **Rice Bistro & Sushi** (5922 S. Holly Street)

New with this issue:

Clock Tower Grill (9360 Station Street), **T.G.I. Friday's** (8334 Willow Street), **Good Times Burgers** (6667 S. Yosemite Court), **El Chubby's** (8243 S. Quebec Street)

Well done and thank you for your efforts.



Southgate

Water & Sanitation Districts

Southgate Districts
3722 East Orchard Road
Centennial, Colorado 80121
(303) 779-0261

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***“We Built Our
Reputation From
The Ground Down!”***

The Districts: *Southgate Water District* and *Southgate Sanitation District*, 3722 E. Orchard Road,
Centennial, CO 80121, 303-779-0261

The Directors:

George J. MacDonald, President and Chairman, Term
expires – May, 2012*
Terry Kirkpatrick, Vice President, Term expires – May, 2014
David Bickham, Secretary, Term expires – May, 2012*
John J. Herbolich, Treasurer, Term expires – May, 2012*
Don E. Winslow, Asst. Treasurer & Asst. Secretary, Term
expires – May, 2014

**Office will be on the May, 2012 ballot*

Contact Information:

District Manager: Duane Tinsley, 3722 E. Orchard Road,
Centennial, CO 80121, 303-713-7742,
dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org

Web Site: www.southgatedistricts.org

Service Problems: 303-779-0261

Billing Information: Water: Denver Water – 303-893-2444,
Sewer: City of Englewood – 303-762-2635

Board Meetings: 4:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each
month at the Southgate Districts Offices



For your convenience ...
www.southgatedistricts.org

Newsletter Delivery

Should you wish to receive delivery of the WaterViews newsletter by email just drop me an email at dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org with an indication of your wishes, name, property address, and your email address. I will delete you from the hard copy mailing list and add you to the email delivery listings.

Should you wish to discontinue delivery of the WaterViews newsletter by any means, just drop me an email at dtinsley@southgatedistricts.org with an indication of your wishes, name and address. Alternately, you could give me a call at 303-713-7742 or send a note to the Districts' offices at 3722 E. Orchard Road, Centennial, CO 80121. I will delete you from the mailing list. You will still have the opportunity to view the newsletter on the Southgate website, www.southgatedistricts.org.
Duane Tinsley, District Manager