

# The Drain Report

## SEWER RATES INCREASE IN 2018

By: Ken Kase

The Midway Sewer District will be increasing the per month residential sewer rate by \$1.00 from \$26 to \$27. The monthly commercial rate for 750 cubic feet of discharge to the sewer will also increase by \$1.00 from \$26 to \$27. If you live in a City where the District is obligated to pay a franchise fee based on the sewer revenue, this fee will be in addition to the charges for sewer service and will be listed as a separate item on the bill. The District sends out a bi-monthly sewer bill (one bill every two months) so residential customers will see an increase of \$2.00. These new rates become effective January 1, 2018.

No one likes to hear that the rate they pay is increasing, but Midway Sewer District customers are fortunate to pay one of the lowest monthly sewer rates in the State of Washington. You only need to look at what other Puget Sound area residents pay for sewer service to realize how fortunate you are.

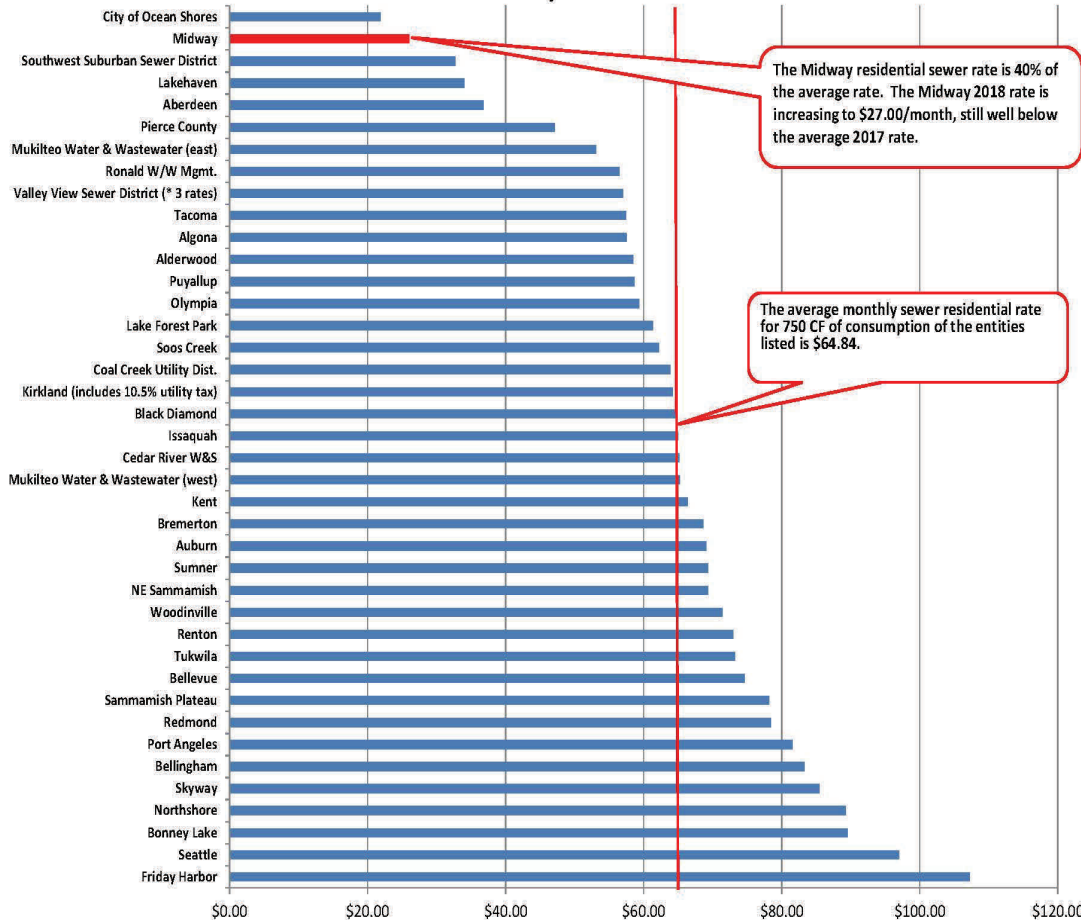
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### Special points of interest:

- Midway Sewer District has one of the lowest monthly rates in the state.
- The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact the office for the meeting time.
- Midway serves the Cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, Kent, Federal Way, Normandy Park, Burien, and the Port of Seattle's SeaTac Airport.
- We have been part of this community since 1946.
- You can expect fast personal service when you need it.
- Our employees care about their customers.
- We have a single focus of providing quality sanitary sewer service.

2017 Monthly Residential Sewer Rate



# Garbage Disposals?

By: Vince Koester



Many Americans love their garbage disposal units. This is not the case in other parts of the world. For instance, in the United Kingdom only about 6% of the homes have garbage disposals. In Canada this figure is closer to 3%. Garbage disposal units have been around since the mid to late 1930's. At that time it was common for municipal sewer systems to prohibit garbage disposal units primarily because of concerns related to obstruction of sewers. Manufacturers of garbage disposal units have been largely successful in getting these prohibitions rescinded.



Approximately 15% of household waste is made up of food scraps. This type of waste can be problematic in a landfill as food scraps produce methane gas as they decompose. Methane is a greenhouse gas and contributes to climate change. Food scraps disposed of in a garbage disposal that is connected to a sewage treatment plant are efficiently processed into biosolids and also methane gas, which can be utilized to generate energy. Septic systems that include food scraps in the contributing waste stream must be sized accordingly to accommodate the increased organic loading.

Not everything should be placed in a garbage grinder. Food scraps such as artichokes, asparagus, avocado pits, bones, carrots, celery, coffee grounds, corn husks, egg shells, lettuce, onion skins, pasta, peach pits, potato peels, oil, and grease should not be disposed of in a garbage grinder. Also, non-food items like paper, plastics, glass, and cans should not go into a garbage disposal. Why call this device a garbage disposal in the first place? The Manager at the Midway Sewer District would prefer that you compost your food waste, or if you must, then put it in the trash. Better yet don't waste food. Only buy and cook what you will eat.

## Staff Save Local Residents Thousands in Repair Costs

By Tim Campbell

Like any complex mechanical system, the Midway Sewer District's Des Moines Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant sometimes needs repairs. And when one of our "solid contact basins" - a critical piece of equipment in helping us meet strict water quality regulations - needed repair, our staff jumped at the opportunity to make the much-needed repairs in house.



Bryan Asplund operates the slide gate actuator

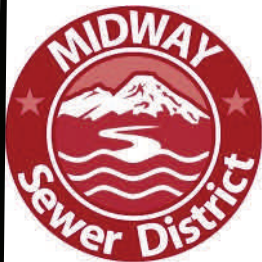
Why was this such a big project? Our staff had to partially drain the basin to expose individual gates and the frames holding them to the wall at two different locations, while keeping the plant fully operational. The gates, weighing more than 1,800 pounds, had to be removed and the necessary repairs completed.

With support from Operations Supervisor Tim Campbell and Senior Operator Pat Osborn, fellow Senior Operator Bryan Asplund, operator Richie Chapple and other staff safely planned and implemented the project. If this project would have gone out to public bid, it would likely have been much more costly.

Thanks again to Pat, Bryan, Richie and the operations staff for all their hard work in making the project a success from beginning to end.



Richie Chapple installing a new bracket he made.



## Board of Commissioners



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