

# The Drain Report

## King of the Sewers

By: Ken Kase

Walt Crahan, the Maintenance Supervisor for the District, has called it quits (retired) as of March 31, 2015. He started working for the District March 1, 1977. His employment spans over 38 years and untold changes in technology. He started out using flashlights and mirrors to try to see defects in the sewers and he finished his career using high tech pipeline video inspection systems and maintenance management software. The tools he used not only improved but they also became much more complicated. You would be surprised to learn how much software and technology are used to maintain and operate a sewer system. Walt was always up to the challenge to adapt to the changing ways of doing his craft. Maybe that is why he is known as "King of the Sewers".



He was born in Renton, grew up in the North Hill area of Des Moines, went to Highline School District schools, and lived with his wife and children near the community he served. There was a very brief period when he finished the Wastewater Training Program at Green River Community College that he worked for Mukilteo Sewer system.

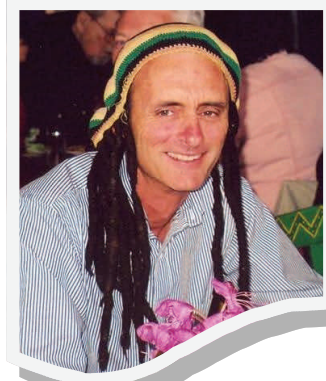


Walt was instrumental in the success of the Midway Sewer District the past 38 years! He always worked hard and expected those around him to also work hard. His institutional knowledge of the sewer system and its many quirks allowed him to quickly discover and correct problems. If there was a problem, it did not matter what time of the day or night it was, or what the weather was doing, or what holiday it was, Walt was usually there correcting things. He really helped things flow smoothly! He took it personally if any sewage was spilled or overflowed.

He got to know many people in the community and many more in the sewer industry. He has the respect of those who know him or who have worked for him. He has left some very big shoes to fill, but he did not

leave the District and its customers abandoned. He wanted to make sure that his successor would be up to the task. He groomed and trained Jace Layton for about 25 years before handing over the sewer collection system to him. Walt has high hopes that the future work force at Midway Sewer District will be dedicated and take pride in their work.

What is next in store for Walt? He isn't sure, but there are plenty of home and church projects to be done when he is not riding his (recumbent) bike or paddling his kayak. Congratulations on your retirement and Thank You for a job well done!



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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.



## New Flush Truck Promises Years of Service

By: Jim Bailey

The District and especially the Sewer Maintenance crew are excited to have received our new Camel Flush Truck! Our Sewer Maintenance crew must maintain over 140 miles of sewer mains so they need the best equipment available. This flush truck is well suited to the task. It is a 2014 Freightliner 108SD Camel 10.8 cubic yard combination sewer and catch basin cleaner manufactured by Super Products. We have it configured with the 800' hose reel mounted behind the cab so we can get into hard to reach places a little better. One of the reasons we choose this particular type of truck is because it allows the user to recycle the liquid for flushing purposes which provides more time flushing and less time filling the liquid tank back up. By getting a new truck this means that our 10 year old flush truck, a 2004 International, will be offered for sale in the near future. That truck was also a Camel flush truck. It has been a workhorse for the District! I would not want to operate a system of sewers without this type of equipment.



## Meet the Newest Members of Our Team

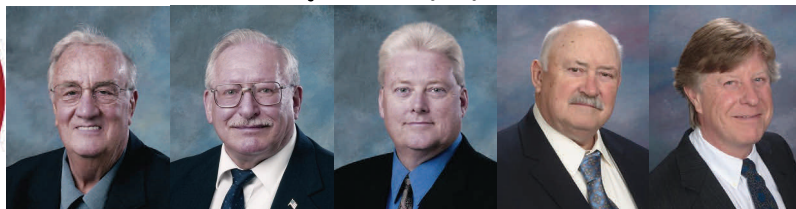
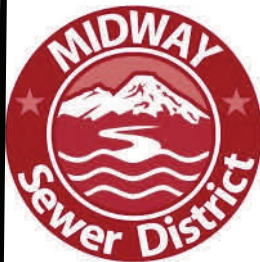
By: Ken Kase



From left to right: Dan Blanchette, John Piontkowski, Trevor Davidson, Jeremy McGinnis, & Brandon Van Ditto.

I would like to introduce to you the new members of our staff. John Piontkowski came to work at our treatment plant a little over a year and a half ago. He has already obtained his Operator I license and has learned a lot about how to operate a treatment plant. Brandon VanDitto joined our staff slightly more than a year ago. He works on the sewer maintenance crew. Since joining our team Brandon has obtained his Collection System I operators license and his Commercial Drivers License endorsement. Dan Blanchette became a full time employee of the District in December of 2014. Prior to that time he worked as a seasonal worker for the District. Jeremy McGinnis began working for the District in early January of this year. He has extensive public works experience having worked for Normandy Park prior to joining our team. Our most recent hire is Trevor Davidson. He began working for Midway Sewer District in mid-March of this year. He also serves our country as an active Marine Reservist. Please welcome these hard working people into the community. They work hard to serve you.

## Board of Commissioners



George Landon Jack Hendrickson Vince Koester Jim Bailey Scot Sanborn

### Midway Sewer District

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