

The Drain Report

Save Money & Pay Your Sewer Bill On Time

By: Ken Kase

At the Midway Sewer District we have some of the lowest sewer rates in the State. We bill our customers every other month and those bills are due 30 days after billing. If the bill is paid after the due date, a 10% late charge is added and this charge will show up on the next bill. If for some reason three billings go unpaid (6 month time period), the District will send the customer a "notice of intent to file a lien" letter 10 days prior to the due date of the third billing. Promptly on the day following the due date, if the bill has not been paid, a lien will be filed against the property by the District.

When a lien is filed, the cost to the customer increases quickly! The District adds \$200 to the amount the delinquent customer owes. \$100 is the cost for filing the lien and a conformed copy. Another \$100 is the cost of releasing the lien and a conformed copy. Why does filing a lien cost so much? It is largely due to the passing of Washington State House Bills 1570 & 2578 which were signed by the Governor in March of 2018. These new laws which went into effect on June 7, 2018, effectively add \$62 to the cost of filing or releasing a lien.



What are these new laws intended to accomplish? Ironically, these laws are intended to improve resources available to aid with increasing access and removing barriers to housing for individuals and families in Washington.

If for some reason a sewer bill goes unpaid beyond 18 months, or over a certain dollar amount, the District will initiate foreclosure action on the property. At this point the costs added to the account increase dramatically. Attorney fees, title search fees, cost of service fees, court costs, and any other charges related to debt collection are added to the account.

I would suggest that you pay your bill prior to the due date and save yourself money, frustration, and time. The District offers many payment options. These convenient payment options can be found at our website at <http://www.midwaysewer.org/>.



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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.

We are getting ready for the future now.

By: Jim Bailey



The District is in the early design stage to upgrade our treatment plant. One of the biggest improvements will be to add another secondary clarifier. This is needed to provide redundancy to our system. We need to be able to provide a full level of treatment with one unit (secondary clarifier) out of service. By adding a third secondary clarifier we will be able to perform maintenance and repairs on these clarifiers with no disruption to the treatment process. Additionally, we want to replace aging blower equipment and air diffuser system, modify the RAS/WAS supply system, upgrade the gravity thickener dilution water system, and improve the effluent diversion structure to increase reliability and treatment performance. It is too early to know the actual cost of these improvements, but our recently developed 6 year capital improvement plan would suggest that these improvements may cost about \$7.5 million.



Construction of a secondary clarifier at the treatment plant during Contract 86-2.

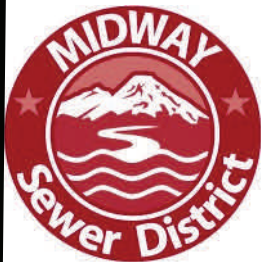
Another area of the District that needs attention is the portion lying southerly of S. 240th Street. The District is in the early planning stages of combining six projects identified in our 6 year capital improvement plan that would eliminate the conveyance issues in this area. These improvements would include increasing the capacity of a major pump station, construct new larger diameter sewers, force mains, and siphons. An early estimate of the cost of these improvements is about \$6 million.

Another project in the design stage is a roof replacement on one of the larger buildings at the treatment plant. Yet another project that is in the design stage is the replacement of some old sewers in the Normandy Park area of the District. The future extension of SR 509 and the extension of Sound Transit's Link Light Rail are also

creating the need for sewer relocation projects, mostly in the vicinity of International Boulevard and S. 208th Street to Interstate 5 and S. 216th Street.

I should also mention that the District has hired a contractor who in the process of cleaning and recoating the interior of the two anaerobic digesters together with replacement and maintenance of the mixing mechanisms. During the performance of this work it has been discovered that existing mixing equipment in one of the digesters need to be replaced. This maintenance project will end up costing about \$2 million. All of these projects have the common goal of providing our customers with reliable and environmentally responsible sewer collection and treatment.

Board of Commissioners



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