

The Drain Report



Jim Bailey Retires

By: Jeff Griffith

Our Operations Supervisor retired on May 1st of this year after 30 years of exemplary service. Jim started with us as an operator in a small crew of 8 that not only worked in the treatment plant but also took care of the collection system and laboratory. While at Midway Sewer District Jim was involved in four expansions of the Treatment Plant where he took particular interest in electrical and electronic systems. He soon became the "go to" operator when these systems needed repair or replacement. Along the way he was promoted to Senior operator, a position he held for many years before being promoted to Operations Supervisor.

Jim Graduated from Humboldt State University located in Arcata, California where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology. Upon graduation he sought a job as a Marine Biologist but found that competition for one of these positions was particularly fierce with hundreds of applicants for each opening. Soon he found himself working as a lab assistant in a Pathology Lab. Jim discovered that Wastewater Treatment Plant laboratories' pay scale was better than where he was so he took a job at the City of Fresno Wastewater Treatment Plant.

After two years as a Lab Technician Jim, who was supporting his young family, decided to become an operator due to the better pay scale. After three years as an operator he came to the Northwest and found a position with us.

Jim will be missed as his contribution to Midway has been great. He is an avid outdoorsman enjoying hiking, fishing and hunting. As a retiree he should find plenty of time to devote these activities.

Generator Would Keep the Flow Going By: Ken Kase

Since 1955, the District has operated a sewer lift station know as the Covenant Beach Pump Station, located at the northeasterly corner of the Des Moines Marina. It is hard to notice because most of it is underground. When the power goes out District crews bring a portable generator to this station to keep it operational. This can mean crews are out in the foul weather in the middle of the night scrambling to get everything hooked up.

With the cooperation of the City of Des Moines and in coordination with the City's Marina improvements, the District has proposed a location for a dedicated emergency generator. You may have noticed the public notice sign in the Marina parking lot. We hope to complete the permitting process this spring. With some success, we should be soliciting bids for the installation of a dedicated emergency generator for this sewer pump station early this summer. Thank you Des Moines for all your assistance in making this project possible!

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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.



Cooperation Rewards Us All!

By: Jack Hendrickson

I have seen a lot of change during my years of service as a Commissioner. That is not hard to imagine since I have been on the Board since February 25, 1976 (over 35 years). Back then, a gallon of gas was around 59¢. The average home sold for around \$48,000. The Cincinnati Reds swept the New York Yankees in the World Series to repeat as baseball's champions. The Dow Jones Industrial average ranged between 858 and 1004. A first class postage stamp was 13¢.

The District has gone through a lot of changes over the years as well. The District enhanced the level of treatment, increased its capacity, extended sewers to new areas, and modernized. Keeping up with the times has been challenging and rewarding.

One of the changes that I am proud to announce is the increase in the level of cooperation between entities on capital improvements and other projects. It used to be rare that various governments would jointly do projects. No one likes to see the streets dug and repaired by one entity only to be dug up and repaired again by another entity. In the last several years there has been a much greater emphasis on coordinating projects.

Examples of inter-jurisdictional cooperation the Midway Sewer District has been involved in include:

- * The new trunk sewer and outfall constructed in a sequence that was coordinated with the Des Moines Creek trail project, Marine View Drive Bridge construction and the many Des Moines Creek Basin projects
- * Street improvement project on Kent Des Moines Road & 10th Ave. S. with Des Moines
- * Street improvement project on 16th Ave. S in the Woodmont area with Des Moines
- * Street improvement project on 28th/24th Ave. S. with SeaTac
- * Street improvement project on Military Road S. north of S. 188th St. with SeaTac
- * Proposed "Gateway" project on 24th Ave. S. near S. 216th St. with Des Moines
- * Des Moines Marina improvements
- * Pavement restoration cost sharing on S. 250th St. with Highline Water District and the City of Des Moines
- * Street improvement projects on Pacific Highway & International Boulevard with SeaTac, Des Moines, and Kent
- * Sewer and water main replacement project in the Salt Air Hills area with Highline Water District
- * Sewer and water main project on 46th Ave. S. with Highline Water District in SeaTac



Additionally, if there is a disaster, there are mutual aid agreements in place with King County and other entities so cooperation and delivery of services can be better insured.

I am happy to report that the public servants of this District have found ways to change with the times and work with those around them to be part of the bigger picture which is to serve you, the public, effectively, efficiently and reliably. One thing we can all count on is change. Lets meet the challenges change can bring as a team because united we stand and divided we fall!

Board of Commissioners



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Midway Sewer District

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