General Manager’s Message

Summer is upon us. Spring cleaning is done, and now it’s time to enjoy the season! CVSan had a great Spring, including a wonderful Earth Day celebration on April 26th. Thank you to all who participated in the clean-up activities and community collection event at Canyon Middle School.

We are proud to turn 75 this year! That’s right, CVSan is 75 years old and still going strong! Thank you to all who came out for our anniversary celebration on July 25th at our District offices on Marshall Street.

In this edition of the Pipeline, you will read about the work we are doing to keep the wastewater system running smoothly every day of the year. These are just a few examples of activities we perform to help make Castro Valley a great place to work and live.

Have a great summer and remember: Environmental stewardship is the responsibility of each and every one of us.

Roland P. Williams, Jr.
General Manager

Cleaning Sewers and Conserving Water

Water plays an essential role in maintaining underground sewer pipes. Water from homes and businesses flows through sewers, and helps move waste through the system to the treatment plant. CVSan’s hydro-jetting machines use water—up to 4,000 pounds per square inch, at 50 gallons per minute—to scour pipes and move stubborn debris through the system. On average, 18,000 gallons of water are used each month. By switching to sewer cleaning tools that require less water to operate (or, in some instances, tools that require no water at all), CVSan has reduced its water consumption by 11 percent. CVSan also has taken advantage of non-potable water available from the Livermore-Amador Valley Water Management Agency (LAVWMA) pipeline that runs through Castro Valley. All of these efforts have significantly reduced water consumption for sewer maintenance, and CVSan is well on its way to meeting its 20 percent reduction goal.
Win Prizes & Learn About Food Scrap Recycling

Where do you put your leftover food scraps from dinner? How about that greasy pizza box? Put your knowledge to the test at ReadySetRecycle.org, and you could win valuable prizes. The website offers Alameda County residents recycling tips and resources, along with rewards for testing their food scrap recycling knowledge. Winners can choose from a variety of prizes, such as a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm fresh produce box, bagged compost, gift cards, or a donation to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. To learn how sorting your bottles from your chicken bones can earn you prizes, go to the Ready Set Recycle Rewards Challenge at www.ReadySetRecycle.org.

Construction Update

CVSan recently kicked off its Pump Station Rehabilitation Project. Construction at the Pump Station 3 and Pump Station 4 sites is anticipated to begin this month and be completed in November. The improvements at these two pump stations—two of the oldest in CVSan’s system—will be some of the first significant upgrades since the pump stations were originally built back in the early 1960s.

The Key to Asset Management

CVSan’s sewer system is made up of pipes, manholes, and pumps that help get wastewater from your home or business to the treatment plant. Hundreds of tools, machines, and other pieces of equipment are used to maintain the system as well. Managing these assets is critical to ensuring a well-operating sewer system. CVSan utilizes asset management software to store asset inventory, schedule maintenance and inspections, track problems and work order histories, and issue permits for repairs and new construction. A robust database helps us coordinate these tasks effectively, saving untold hours each year.

Rx Drop-Off

The safe management and disposal of pharmaceutical (medicine) waste is important to CVSan and our community. Please do not dump any pharmaceutical waste down the drain, in the toilet or garbage. Improper disposal of pharmaceuticals (including over-the-counter, as well as prescription medications) can lead to prescription drug abuse, accidental poisonings, and water pollution. Thanks to a partnership between CVSan and Eden Medical Center, you can drop off your pharmaceutical waste for free, 24/7 at Eden Medical Center, 20103 Lake Chabot Road, Castro Valley. For more information, visit www.cvsan.org/pharms. Tip: It’s best to drop off pharmaceuticals in a plastic bag with a zip closure.

CVHS Seniors Win CVSan Scholarship

Congratulations to Castro Valley High School (CVHS) seniors Madeline Hahn and Suzanna Chak for winning CVSan’s first Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship! The two winners demonstrated their environmental leadership by serving on CVSan’s Community Advisory Committee and/or participating in various environmental clubs at their high school. Madeline Hahn (at right) and Suzanna were recognized at the May 6, 2014 CVSan Board of Directors meeting with an award certificates. Each student will receive a $500 scholarship.

It Pays to Recycle Your Used Motor Oil Filter!

Do you change your own motor oil? Do you live in a single-family home? Then you can recycle your used motor oil and filter right at the curb. Just notify Waste Management of Alameda County, Inc. (WMAC) at least 24 hours before setting them out. You will receive a coupon in the mail for a new filter, valued at $10! Residents can participate in this program from Monday, September 8, 2014 through Friday, October 17, 2014. Call WMAC’s Customer Service Center, Monday through Friday, between 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. at 510-537-5500.

Your used motor oil filter must be set out at the curb for recycling in order to receive a filter coupon. Coupons expire Monday, October 27, 2014. Visit www.cvsan.org/usedoil for more information.

An Eye on Pump Stations

Pump stations’ force main is the pipe that transports the wastewater from the pumps under pressure back to the gravity sewer system. Force main pipe accounts for only 1.7 of the 165 miles of pipe, or about one percent of CVSan’s sanitary sewer system. Defects in force main pipe can result in costly emergency repairs, if they are not identified and addressed before the problems get worse. CVSan staff recently completed an initial assessment at two of the nine pump stations. Further investigations and tests in the coming year will help plan future maintenance and rehabilitation projects.

CVSan’s Environmental Leader in Waste Reduction Scholarship recognizes student leadership efforts to reduce waste and practice the 4R principles at school. Visit www.cvsan.org/studentscholarship for details regarding the 2014/15 scholarship application.

CASTRO VALLEY SANITARY DISTRICT | 21040 Marshall Street | Castro Valley, CA 94546-6020 | www.cvsan.org | 510-537-0757

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Visit www.cvsan.org/usedoil for more information.