Serving and Beautifying our Community

YOUR SMART CHOICES SAVE RESOURCES! Join fellow residents and members of the community on Saturday, April 30, 2005 to celebrate Earth Day. There will be three events to attend!

One - Help CLEAN Castro Valley from 9 a.m. - 12 noon. Sign up yourself, your family or your club. All volunteers receive a free lunch & T-shirt at the Earth Day/Watershed Festival at Palomares Elementary School.

Two - RUN or WALK 5k to send C.V. High School cross-country runners to the Iolani Invitational in Hawaii. The 5k Fun Run/Walk starts at 9 a.m. at C.V. Blvd. & Marshall St. Preregister by April 8th for discounts. All participants receive a free breakfast & T-shirt! Awards!

Three - Celebrate at the free Earth Day/Watershed FESTIVAL from 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at Palomares Elementary School, 6395 Palo Verde Road. Come for the booths, activities, local musician Blair Hansen and lots of other live entertainment, creek tours, food, games, and give-aways such as seedlings & bagged compost (see your Waste Management bill insert for voucher). The first 100 Seniors 55+ (ID required), come for your free sandwich vouchers from Lucca’s Deli. Bring your inkjet and laser cartridges to the Festival to be recycled. Visit our website at www.cvsan.org for complete information about all of the events.

Food Scrap Recycling is Easy!

Recycling food scraps and food-soiled paper into high-quality compost began here in Castro Valley in 2002 and has now spread throughout Alameda County.

A survey performed after the start-up showed that participating households put an average of eight pounds of food scraps per week in their greenwaste carts. With over 1,000,000 households that could be participating in our County – well, you do the math. We could be keeping a substantial amount of uneaten food out of the landfills.

And recycling food scraps is as easy as walking to your

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President’s Message

In this issue of the Pipeline there is information about the many activities and projects the District is undertaking. These include the Earth Day events, an E-waste Collection, the Lateral Replacement Grant Program and the Food Scraps program. You will also find information that we hope will help you in your effort to reduce waste whenever possible. The District is ever increasing its programs and projects to provide the best quality service at a reasonable price.

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While the level of service has increased, we have spent considerable effort to keep costs under control. This effort helps keep these costs some of the lowest in Alameda County.

The District is in good financial health to weather the challenging fiscal issues. We are in the process of reviewing our two year budget to make sure we can continue to deliver quality service to the customers of the District with the current revenue.

If it is determined that increases are needed, the District will take every opportunity to minimize the impact.

We believe through continued prudent financial planning the District can continue to make good on its mission to serve the public interests of our community through safe, efficient and effective wastewater and solid waste management.

DANIEL M. AKAGI, President

REPLACING YOUR LEAKY SEWER LATERAL?

Once again, you will be able to take advantage of the District’s Lateral Replacement Grant Program (LRGP) starting July 1, 2005. LRGP reimbursements are limited and grants are obligated on a first come-first served basis. For more information on how to qualify — and before you have work done — go to www.cvsan.org/grants.htm or contact the District at (510) 537-0757.

Private lateral connecting to public sewer main

NEED SOME HELP?

• Report Sewer Emergencies:
  Business hours, M-F 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
  (510) 537-0757, CVSD
  After hours (510) 506-5821, CVSD

• Missed garbage/recycling/greenwaste
• Damaged cart
• Questions about WM invoice
• Need change in collection services
• Need replacement oil jugs
• Want to schedule a bulky waste pick-up:
  (510) 537-5500, WMAC

Staff reviewing the District’s budget.

However, there are some factors of the District’s budget which are beyond our control. As we are painfully aware, the State of California has had some serious financial troubles. The State has looked to Special Districts, such as Castro Valley Sanitary District, for revenue to help bring the State budget closer into balance. To this end, the State has taken 85% of funds usually received by the District. These funds equate to approximately 8% of the District’s total operating budget.
Sewer Backup Prevention

Despite our best efforts to maintain our sewer system, occasionally the sewer lines do back up. Most recently, a sewer backup was caused by rags clogging a pipe.

If your home is lower than the upstream manhole or street, you may be at risk!

Here are some precautions to keep this from happening to you:

1. Become familiar with the location of your private sewer lines.
2. Locate your sewer cleanout. If it is buried, it should be uncovered!
3. Do you know if your home’s facilities are lower than the upstream manhole or street elevation? Call the Castro Valley Sanitary District for help in determining this.
4. If so, obtain a permit from the Castro Valley Sanitary District to install a backflow prevention device. Permit fees are $30.00.

If your home’s toilets, sinks, or other sewer drains are lower than the upstream manhole, you are responsible for any damages that result from a sewer back-up. If you have questions please call the District at (510) 537-0757.

Food Scrap Recycling cont. from Page 1

There are lots of ways to contain your food scraps, besides the food scrap pails given out a few years ago—a paper bag (toss in your used paper towels to help soak up any liquid), a waxy-type milk or juice carton, or an ice cream carton can all be placed in your greenwaste cart along with the food scraps, to begin the cycle of making compost we can use in our gardens.

Speaking of gardens, Springtime is when we all think about new plantings. And what better way to show that we care about the environment than with a bay-friendly garden? These gardens contain a gorgeous variety of drought-tolerant, low maintenance native plants, just right for Spring. For more information, see the Bay-Friendly Garden section at www.stopwaste.org. For more information about food scrap recycling in the Castro Valley Sanitary District, call (510) 537-0987 or visit our website, www.cvsan.org.

WMAC Split Body Truck

Remember – WMAC is collecting your recycling and garbage in a split-body truck. The items go into the same chute but are diverted mechanically within the truck into the two separate areas in the truck’s body.
CVSD NewsNotes

Computer Recycle Round-Up

CVSD will hold its third Computer Recycle Round-Up at Canyon Middle School on Saturday, July 16, 2005.

Residents of the Sanitary District are invited to bring televisions, computers and computer peripherals from their homes (no businesses) to this FREE event between 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Please bring photo ID as proof of residency. Visit www.cvsan.org, or call (510) 537-0987 for more details.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The District has established a CAC for the purpose of reviewing wastewater and solid waste initiatives facing the District. The Committee is made up of members of the community appointed by the CVSD Board of Directors. Members will sit on the Committee for a term of two years, which may be renewable. The Committee is an effective means to connect the District with the public it serves.

Got Sharps? Get Safety!

Getting rid of used sharps shouldn’t be “sticky business” for residents. Sharps cannot be disposed of in the regular trash, so the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has issued a set of new recommendations on how residents should dispose of used syringes. Following these guidelines will minimize the health risks to solid waste workers and others who might accidentally come into contact with the sharps. For a downloadable version of the EPA brochure visit www.epa.gov or call CVSD at (510) 537-0987 for more information.

Sharps disposal containers to minimize health risks.

Congratulations Greg Williams!

Senior Collection System Maintenance Worker, Greg Williams is the 2004 Collection System Person of the Year. This recognition has been awarded to Greg by the California Water Environment Association, San Francisco Bay Section. Greg is one in a long line of award winners for our District. Greg has been with the District for three years and has proven himself to be a knowledgeable and reliable crew member.