

# Stream **LINES**



Gary Sanitary District

## Summer 2002

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## Library Locations for GSD Video

### Gary

- Main – 220 W. 5th Avenue
- DuBois – 1835 Broadway
- Kennedy – 3953 Broadway
- Tolleston – 1113 Taft Street
- Wildermuth – 501 S. Lake Street

### Lake County

- Merrillville – 1919 W. 86th Avenue
- Lake Station – 2400 Central Avenue
- Hobart – 100 Main Street
- New Chicago – 3250 Michigan Street



## NEW GSD VIDEO BUZZ



Enlightening, interesting, and informative are just a few of the buzzwords customers use to describe the new GSD public information video. Local Gary cable stations WJPN Channel 4 and Channel 21 have periodically aired the video since last December. Most recently, WJPN aired the video three times a day from May 1st through May 7th.

The video was developed to increase customer knowledge and understanding of GSD operations and activities. Topics covered include wastewater collection and treatment; public health

works. And she says, “I would like to see GSD do more in terms of public outreach and public information, because in the year 2002 there are still customers who can only relate GSD to flushing their toilets.”

Carl and Chris Lacey say they never thought about what GSD does until they saw the video. “I feel better after watching it, because I know what they are doing,” said Carl Lacey. “When I drive by now I know exactly what they are doing.” The Lacey’s expressed how helpful the information is and how much they learned. “I feel better, more

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and environmental issues; capital improvement projects; and the customer’s role in system operations.

GSD customer Orientha Holmes is glad the videotape aired and she is especially impressed by how easy the information is to understand. “I am very happy that communication is there and available to the public,” said Ms. Holmes. She is also pleased to see that one of GSD’s top priorities is the replacement of 25-year-old equipment at the wastewater treatment plant. “You can’t have outdated equipment and expect to operate efficiently,” says Ms. Holmes.

Mary Brown, GSD Customer Service Manager agrees that the release of the video has had a positive affect on customers. Mrs. Brown sees the video as an excellent overview of how the system

of a comfort level now because the equipment is being updated,” explains Chris Lacey, “I didn’t realize the equipment was so old.”

Who values from the video, customers, children, or GSD? If you answered everyone, you are correct. Information and understanding are the bases for all good relationships. And GSD strives to maintain good customer relations with all of its customers.

Increased and on-going customer interest prompted GSD to make the video more widely available. With assistance from the Gary and Lake County Public Libraries, the GSD video is now available for public viewing and/or checkout at several library branches (see left) and at the administrative offices of the Gary Sanitary District. ♦

The 1998 Facilities Planning Study completed by the Gary Sanitary District established a prioritized list of system improvements needed for public health and safety, regulatory compliance, and improved operational efficiencies. The study identified several improvement projects as critical and recommended that the projects be implemented during the first five years of GSD's capital improvements program.

The basis for the established priorities included:

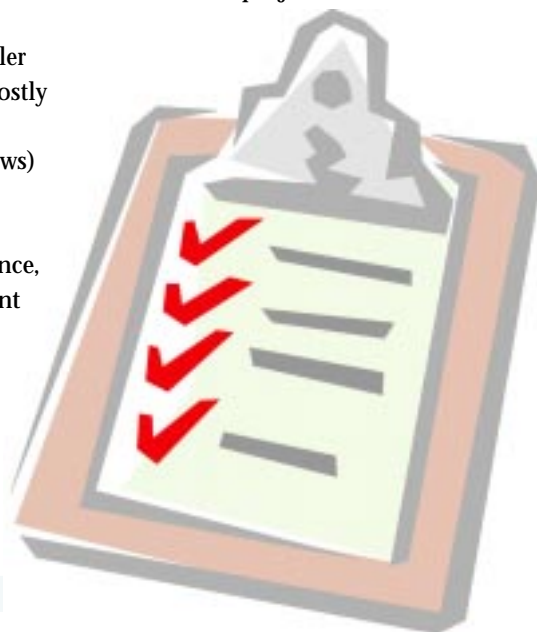
- The imminent potential for equipment or structural failure that would

directly result in loss of treatment, or cause further damage to equipment or structures.

- The opportunity to achieve immediate cost savings, or safer, more efficient operations
- The need to replace old or outdated equipment or structures to avoid failure in the future
- The sensibility of resolving smaller problems before they become costly and unavoidable problems (for example leaking roofs or windows)

Uninterrupted treatment, proper equipment and facility maintenance, and efficient resource management

are very important issues. All GSD customers have the right to know how GSD is addressing these critical needs and protecting the public interests. This and upcoming issues of *Streamlines* will provide our customers with a summary report on the status of the critical needs projects. ♦



## Gary Sanitary District Critical Needs Status Report

Project	Status
Sewer Cleaning	Ongoing effort
15th and Clay Pump Station Upgrade	Completed
42nd and Johnson Pump Station Upgrade	Completed
Black Oak Sewer Project	Anticipated completion Summer 2002
27th and Chase Pumping Station	Design complete. Anticipated bid date Summer 2002
Wastewater Treatment Plant Aeration System	Design complete. Construction scheduled for completion 2002
Electrical System and Standby Power	Design complete. Construction scheduled for completion 2002
Effluent Sand Filler Rehabilitation	Design complete. Construction started March 2002
Excess Wet Weather Flow Storage Basin – 32nd and Broadway	Project pending
Central Area Interceptor Sewer Replacement	Project scheduled for 2003
Wastewater Treatment Plant Headworks	Design completed. Construction began March 2002
Wastewater Treatment Plant Communications	Design underway
Sludge Hauling Systems	Project scheduled for 2003
Primary Wastewater Treatment Systems	Project scheduled for 2005
Secondary Wastewater Treatment Systems	Project scheduled for 2005

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# BASEMENT, STREET FLOODING REDUCED THREE WAYS

Gary Sanitary District personnel take a three-pronged approach to reduce basement and street flooding: sewer cleaning, sewer televising and the construction of new or upgraded sewer lines. Each is part of an ongoing GSD program to maximize available sewer capacity and reduce sewer overflows.

Maximizing sewer capacity and reducing combined sewer overflow are parts of what the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency terms “Nine Minimum Controls.” These controls are set forth for communities such as Gary in which the same sewers carry both sanitary flows from homes and businesses and stormwater running off parking lots and streets.

When these combined sewers can no longer transport the entire sanitary and wet weather flows, such as during



heavy rains, a condition called “surcharging” occurs. When sewers become surcharged, street and basement flooding takes place. To avoid surcharging, it is important to maintain the full capacity within the sewer system.

Blockages caused by tree roots, grease buildup or broken pipe joints can reduce sewer capacity. Solid materials settling out from slow-moving flows also clog interior pipe walls. Routine sewer cleaning maintains the full carrying capacity within the system.

Closed circuit television (CCTV) is one of the primary tools used to evaluate the capacity and condition of sewers. GSD now owns two CCTV trucks with special equipment used to televise sewer lines to identify blockages and sewer degradation. The CCTV trucks are an integral part of GSD’s preventative maintenance program. Their most important function is to aid in identifying potential sewer problems so that they can be corrected before sewer backups and surcharging occurs.

New sewer construction such as the nearly completed Black Oak Sanitary Sewer Project increases overall sewer system capacity. The Black Oak project provides for the completion of several miles of sewers to service the previously unsewered areas of the community. ♦

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS WORK ADVANCES

Construction is completed for three major projects that were identified as crucial in the 25-year capital improvement plan.

Improvements to the 15th and Clay Pumping Station will increase the stations’ reliability and efficiency to transfer sanitary and wet weather flows from the east side of the GSD service area to the wastewater treatment plant. Variable-speed-drive pumps were upgraded for better control of the rate at which wastewater is pumped.

New bar screens will prevent damage to pumping equipment caused by debris such as rags and sticks. Newly

installed electrical equipment allows for better balance in the distribution of power throughout the pumping station.

At the 42nd and Johnson Pumping Station, only two of the four pumps were previously operable. New pumps installed, as part of this \$2.7 million upgrade will significantly improve the handling of peak storm flows in the Glen Park area. The constructed site work provides for better station security and storm drainage. Improvements to the 42nd and Johnson station also included added electrical power that enables the station to pump more water at faster speeds.



The third completed project involves \$1.5 million in improvements to the sludge handling system at the wastewater treatment plant. New air diaphragm pumps were installed to replace the existing outdated piston pumps. These pumps transfer sludge—the solids that have separated from the waste stream during treatment—to digester tanks for decomposition by microorganisms. ♦

The Means Manor section of Gary was hit particularly hard during a rain-storm when the area received over two and a half inches of rain during a 24-hour period. The collection system was flowing at capacity during this period and many areas, including Means Manor, experienced sewer backups. Area residents, primarily senior citizens, were frustrated, to say the least, with the backups and commented that they had never experienced such a widespread problem for over 40 years.

GSD acted immediately to minimize potential flooding problems in the future. First sewer maintenance crews

were dispatched immediately to clean the sewer line to ensure that sewer capacity could be maximized. Next a detailed investigation of the area manholes was conducted. During the investigation a defect was found in the manhole exiting the Means Manor subdivision. Provisions were made to enlarge the inlet to a receiving sewer main to allow water to flow more readily away from the area.

Design conditions of the area sewers were also reviewed and GSD authorized the replacement of a 124-foot section of the gravity sewer that was found to be undersized. ♦

The United States Environmental Protection Agency routinely requires governing authorities like the Gary Sanitary District to provide public notices to customers. The following notice communicates previous activities of the District and it is included in this newsletter only to satisfy the requirements of the EPA. The notice does not and is not intended to communicate or imply any changes to current GSD customer rates or available customer services.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is intended to advise all sewer users paying fees for services to the **Gary Sanitary District (GSD)** that GSD has entered into an operations and maintenance service agreement with White River Environmental Partnership (WREP). The agreement, which became effective June 1, 1998, provides for a \$10 million franchise fee advance payment from WREP to GSD. The \$10 million was placed into GSD's Capital Replacement Fund, which is issued to pay for the replacement and/or major repair of GSD's capital equipment. The agreement provides that if the agreement is terminated before its full term expires, all or part of this franchise fee may have to be repaid to WREP, the amount depending on the cause for the early termination and when it occurs.

## AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION

An extremely heavy rain can be larger than the capacity of any affordable sewer system. Here are a few ways to reduce or even prevent basement flooding.

- ♦ Avoid dumping leaves, grass clippings, motor oil and other items into a sewer. These can clump together and slow down the natural water flow.
- ♦ Remove trash, leaves, papers and other items as they collect near your curbside gutter box so that water can drain properly from the street.
- ♦ Disconnect your downspouts, yard drains and foundation drains from the sanitary sewer.
- ♦ Install downspout extensions that direct water six feet from your foundation.
- ♦ Contact your local plumber about installing backflow-prevention devices.
- ♦ Provide a backup source of power for your basement sump pump.
- ♦ Clean and repair your gutters and downspouts.



## GSD Board of Sanitary Commissioners

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### CUSTOMER SERVICE TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Service Issues ..... 219-944-1211
- Billing Inquiries ..... 219-883-1027
- Administration ..... 219-944-0595