

# Gallatin Gateway Water & Sewer District

Serving Gallatin Gateway since 2009

## Sewer Connections

Spring 2014

Protecting public health by providing affordable, regulatory-compliant wastewater services to the Gallatin Gateway community.

### Board of Directors:

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### GGWSD Welcomes New Director

At the March 3, 2014 Board Meeting, the GGWSD Board of Directors appointed Eric Amend to fill the open Director's seat vacated by Earl Wortman, who chose not to run for re-election when his term expired in November 2013. Earl served on the Board of Directors since the District's inception in February 2009, and the Board and staff would like to publically thank Earl for his voluntary service to the Board in its endeavor to envision, finance and construct a sewer system in our community. Eric Amend is a 15 year resident of Gallatin Gateway and is a local cabinetmaker. He hopes to assist the board as they move forward with building a wastewater system, with the goal of protecting water quality in Gallatin Gateway. Eric's term runs through November 2017.

**Reminder:** Board meetings of the GGWSD are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:30 PM in the Board Room of the Gallatin Gateway Fire Station, 320 Webb Street. All meetings are open to the public and community participation is encouraged. Agendas are posted at the Gallatin Gateway post office, and on-line at the district's website, prior to each meeting.

### Sewage Treatment System Vendors in Selection Phase

The District's engineering firm, Stahly Engineering of Bozeman, has received numerous responses to their request for pre-qualification from potential vendors for the sewage treatment system. The sewage treatment system includes everything between, but not including, the septic tank and dose tank. Four finalists have been selected and are being interviewed in depth, and the submittals are being scored for a final recommendation to the Board in April. Two different technologies are being considered: SBR and Level II treatment systems. Level II systems are defined as systems that remove at least 60% of total nitrogen as measured from the raw sewage load, or discharge a total nitrogen effluent concentration of 24 mg/L or less. Examples of these systems include recirculating trickling media filters such as those manufactured by Advantex and Quanics. SBR is short for Sequencing Batch Reactor and is an example of a higher level of treatment in the activated sludge treatment process. The SBR system utilizes a single tank to accomplish the steps needed in this type of treatment. Redundant tanks (two trains of treatment) are required in this process and the resulting effluent is

likely to be a higher quality than that of a level II system. Analysis of both systems must include an evaluation of the on-going operation and maintenance costs associated with each type of system. The Board will be considering all options to provide the best sewage treatment in the most cost effective manner for the community.

### Project News and Updates

As we mentioned in our last edition, Gateway Village, LLC, has filed a lawsuit against the Montana Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in reference to the discharge permit issued to the GGCWSD (“the District”), and the District has been named as a party in that lawsuit. A scheduling conference was held on March 4, 2014, in District Court. The attorneys for the petitioner and the respondents agreed to a schedule that concludes with a hearing on August 18, 2014. The attorneys for MDEQ and GGCWSD have filed a Motion to Dismiss and the Honorable Judge Brown may enter a ruling on this motion to dismiss prior to the August 18 hearing. If the case goes to hearing, it is anticipated that Judge Brown will make a ruling in September.

Larry Watson, Gallatin County Grants Administrator, has released for public comment the revised Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the CDGB grant, which will assist the community’s qualifying low-to-moderate income residents in paying for their sewer services. To date there have been 2 comments received, one from Gateway Village, LLC, via its attorney, and one from Terry Threlkeld. Both commenters object to the FONSI and are requesting that a full Environmental Impact Statement be required.

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**Calling all volunteers!** The District would welcome volunteers from all segments of the District who are interested in being a member of, or working closely with, the Community Liaison committee. Activities include: keeping neighbors informed of ongoing sewer

developments and sharing sewer system design; eliciting feedback regarding design impacts on specific properties; facilitating discussion between property owners, Board and engineers for mutually acceptable, property-specific design. Those interested in participating, or who would like more information on the sewer system preliminary design, potential impacts of construction or other community-related issues should contact: Steve Janes, Chair, Community Liaison committee [steve@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:steve@gatewaywsd.com)

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### Quarterly \$6.00/mo. benefited lot charge invoice enclosed

Thank you to all who promptly mailed in their payments! To help reduce printing and mailing costs, the District would be happy to send future invoices and newsletters to you via email. If you would like to receive your communications by email, please send your request to [customerservice@gatewaywsd.com](mailto:customerservice@gatewaywsd.com). We are also looking into the possibility of enabling on-line payments via credit card, if we have enough requests to provide this service.

A reminder on delinquent accounts: At the March 3, 2014 Board Meeting, the Board passed a motion waiving late fees associated with the first invoice, dated Dec. 31, 2013. Beginning with this billing cycle, however, a late fee of \$10/month will be applied to all past due accounts. All past due accounts at the end of the District’s fiscal year (June 30) will be notified of the amount due, including penalties and interest, by July 15. By state law (MCA 7-13-2301), the District is required to report any delinquent accounts as of August 15 of each year to the County Treasurer, who is then required to put the delinquent amount on the tax bill of the property owner. The Rules, Rates and Fees adopted by the GGWSD Board of Directors in October 2013 can be viewed at:

<http://www.gatewaywsd.com/documents/rules-regulations-and-forms>.