CENTRAL SAN'S CUSTOMER NEWSLETTER

FALL 2018

LEARNING TOGETHER

Mike and Sue Brandy of Walnut Creek visit Central San with their grandchildren for a tour of the treatment plant

Distinguished Service, Forward Progress

entral San provides critical services that require a consistent and dependable approach. We are committed to continuously exceeding our customers expectations, and while our daily responsibilities may be unchanging, we never allow complacency. Because we know it matters, Central San strives to be a leader in our field, seek out innovative approaches and build upon our excellent reputation by listening to the needs of our customers. Those needs are always changing and becoming more challenging. Meeting new regulatory demands and focusing on being the best environmental stewards keeps us energized to move forward with our goals.

I am proud to report that this has been a productive and successful year for Central San. We have established a solid foundation for the future with the integration of several key planning documents, the implementation of several large-scale infrastructure projects, and the realization of significant savings through bond refinancing. Central San has maintained a AAA credit rating with Standard & Poor's, which was reaffirmed during the recent refinancing of bonds that will produce more than \$8 million in savings.

These savings will help fund extensive infrastructure improvement projects, including upgrading the equipment in our regional treatment plant, servicing and repairing pumping stations, and replacing several miles of sewer pipes each year to provide sewer service reliability for decades to come.

This was also a year of milestones for Central San. Our agency celebrated our 20th Platinum Peak Performance Award, given by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA). This award is given to agencies with a record of continuous permit compliance for treatment plant operations and reflects our commitment to environmental protection. We also deepened our relationship with our community by substantially increasing household hazardous waste and pharmaceutical collection, introducing a new elementary K-2 grade student education program, and offering our 3rd Central San Academy which is available at no additional cost to the public to learn more about our work.

With these and other initiatives we aim to provide you with the highest quality services in the most efficient and cost-effective ways possible, while adhering to best business practices, maintaining full regulatory compliance, and being good stewards of our environment. Thank you for continuing to place your trust in us as we work to serve you and our community today and into the future.

Roger S. Bailey,

Roger S. Bailey, General Manager

Learning Together

ou may not think of Central San every time you flush, but that doesn't mean you're not curious! The following public outreach programs offer opportunities to learn more about wastewater treatment and pollution prevention.

TOURS - VISIT US

We offer quarterly public tours of our award-winning wastewater treatment plant. This free 90-minute walking tour gives members of the public a first-hand look at what it takes to remove waste and other pollutants from millions of gallons of wastewater each day. You will learn about the effects of water pollution, the mechanical and biological processes we use to clean and disinfect wastewater, and how you can help keep our waterways safe and clean. Custom tours and presentations for groups can also be arranged.

Please contact Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7316 or ccarp@centralsan.org, or go to this link to sign up for a free tour: http://CentralSanPlantTours.eventbrite.com.

CENTRAL SAN WILL COME TO YOU

Would your group like to know more about how we protect the environment? We would be happy to provide a speaker for your group or next event.

Please contact Lindy Lavender at (925) 335-7721 or llavender@centralsan.org to request a speaker.



MEET US – DIGITALLY!

Central San recently launched our new website and we invite you to visit and take a look around. Check out our latest videos, view Board Meetings, and learn about our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at the new Centralsan.org.

Mike and Sue Brandy of Walnut Creek get a behind the scenes tour of Central San with their grandchildren.



Want more? If you would like a comprehensive, in-depth experience of what we do here at Central San, please see our article on the Central San Academy, featured on Page 7.



Pollution Prevention Award Winners

ongratulations to this year's winners of our annual Pollution Prevention Awards! These local businesses are leaders in environmental protection and we are proud to commend their commitment to preventing pollution in our community.



PowerHouse Designz

2655 Monument Boulevard, Suite H, Concord

PowerHouse Designz practices Pollution Prevention by installing brake pads with less hazardous compounds, using organic coolant, storing new vehicle fluids in cardboard instead of plastic containers, and using two different mop buckets to capture oil and coolant spills separately (which then are transferred to their respective storage drums). Due to these practices, there is no harmful discharge to the sewer.

Surfside Kids Dental 675 Contra Costa Boulevard, Pleasant Hill

Surfside Kids Dental practices Pollution Prevention by rarely placing mercurycontaining amalgam fillings, off-hauling all amalgam wastes, maintaining their amalgam separator on a routine schedule and using all digital X-rays. Management is proactive in following sewer regulations and staff are well-trained in Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid water pollution.

Prevention

Awards



Pollution Prevention Partners

entral San is recognizing a number of Ace Hardware stores this year as long-term Pollution Prevention Partners. These stores go above and beyond by collecting fluorescent lamps and household batteries at their retail locations. Since 2008, more than 458,115 feet of fluorescent lamps and more than 136,868 pounds of household batteries have been conveniently collected at these local stores and properly disposed of by Central San.



Alamo Ace Hardware 3211 Danville Blvd., Alamo

Walnut Creek Ace Hardware, 2044 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek



Bill's Ace Hardware Martinez, Concord, Pleasant Hill



Alamo Ace Hardware 3438 Camino Tassajara, Danville





Walnut Creek Ace Hardware, 2967 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek



POLLUTION PREVENTION AWARDS

Recycled Water Champions



The Veranda 2001 Diamond Blvd, Concord

Veranda retail complex has been connected to Central San's recycled water system since April 2018. The Veranda's exclusive use of drip irrigation, together with drought tolerant plants, and extensive use of mulching and bioswales (a landscaping element designed to remove debris and pollution from surface runoff water), makes them a role model for water efficiency and water conservation for commercial landscapes.

The Conco Companies 5141 Commercial Circle, Concord

Conco has been using Central San's recycled water for the past 11 years (since 2007) for washing vehicles, which translates into saving over 15 million gallons of drinking (potable) water for human consumption.





RECYCLED WATER CITIZEN CHAMPION

Jack Humphrey

Jack Humphrey, of Martinez, is Central San's 2018 Recycled Water Citizen Champion. From July 2017 to July 2018, Mr. Humphrey visited the Residential Recycled Water Fill Station 246 times and used more than 65,000 gallons of recycled water. As an avid gardener, Mr. Humphrey often visits the fill station several times a day and uses the recycled water to feed his many plants and half-acre lawn.

Come Learn with Us!

entral San is gearing up for the next session of our award-winning citizens academy: Central San Academy. This spring, we welcome you to join us for an eye-opening and fascinating look into the inner workings of wastewater treatment, resource recovery, pollution prevention and more. The course also includes a comprehensive tour of our treatment plant, laboratory, Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility and Residential Recycled Water Fill Station.



The Academy is FREE and will be held one evening a week for six consecutive weeks in spring 2019 at our Walnut Creek Collection System Operations Facility, except for one class, which will be a tour of our facilities in Martinez in the morning, with no evening class that day. A light meal will be served at every session.

For more information, please visit our website at www.CentralSan.org/ Central-San-Academy. If you are interested in joining the mailing list to receive an update when the application period opens, please send an email to academy@centralsan.org. We hope you will consider joining others who have come to Central San Academy with such rave reviews as the following:





Having taken the class, I will smile after every flush, knowing the water is well taken care of!

I really appreciate all of the effort everyone at Central San puts into educating the public. This class is the best of all of what you do to share your work with the public.

Central San provided employee professionals to elaborate about treatment. This far exceeded anything I had in mind.

I thought everyone conveyed the information so well; so much information was presented in a very interesting and easy-tounderstand manner. Great job!





Be Careful with Contacts

illions of Americans use contact lenses and many are improperly disposing of their contacts and letting them fall into their drains. These small soft plastics are adding to the inundation of microplastics into our waterways and hurting marine life. When ingested, microplastics can cause blockages and leach toxins into the bodies of marine animals. As a result, microplastics are increasingly present in our food supply.

While your vision of plastics may be large bags and bottle caps, plastic can be found in thousands of small everyday products – including contact lenses. Microplastics come from an array of sources, including from larger plastic debris that degrades into smaller and smaller pieces. According to some estimates, there are more microplastics in our oceans than there are stars in the our galaxy. Unfortunately, plastics tend to float in water, making them very challenging for wastewater treatment processes to remove.

Pollution prevention is a cornerstone of our work and we're committed to keeping you informed of new and rising concerns. If you use contact lenses – please properly dispose of them in the trash.

THE PERILS OF PLASTIC

MILLION METRIC TONS OF PLASTIC WINDS UP IN OUR OCEANS EACH YEAR. IF PLASTIC PRODUCTION ISN'T CURBED, PLASTIC POLLUTION WILL OUTWEIGH FISH POUND FOR POUND BY

OF THE WORLD'S FISH POPULATION ARE SUFFERING FROM PLASTIC INGESTION. Never Flush a Wipe

ipes (even those labeled as "flushable") are designed to be durable when wet. **There is no such thing as a flushable wipe.** Many wipes are made from synthetic plastic-based materials. Unlike toilet paper, wipes don't disintegrate easily (if at all) when flushed; they remain intact as they pass through sewer pipes. They clog pipes in homes, and cause clogs, overflows, and equipment malfunctions in sewer systems, pumping stations, and wastewater treatment plants across the country, resulting in millions of dollars in damages.



Internships at Central San

s a communications intern at Central San, the last few months have been exciting and dynamic. The variety of tasks are ever-changing and have introduced me to a wide range of experiences, from writing newsletter articles, participating in tours, meeting our customers at events, promoting environmental awareness using social media, and working on photography and graphic design projects. These skills will be useful when I return to college and eventually work in the field of city planning, sustainability, and environmental protection.

I interviewed a few other interns and asked them to share their experiences at Central San. Here are their thoughts:

Francisco Ayala Delgado, who works in Capital Projects, has discovered that working at a wastewater treatment plant is his passion. "I like to learn all of the different types of processes and understand how they work in tandem." Francisco looks forward to taking on new projects and is excited to teach others what he has learned during his internship, "I will keep growing as a person the more I learn."

Kara Malig, who is majoring in Environmental Chemistry, came to Central San because she wants to be an advocate for environmental health. Her studies align with Central San's mission statement: to protect public health and the environment. "This internship provides excellent work experience in a field closely related to my interests, to hopefully get my foot in the door to other opportunities."

"It's exciting," said Vivian Le, an intern in the Engineering Deparment's Planning and Development Services Division, "to be involved in improving wastewater plant efficiency and technologies." Vivian has spent her time here at Central San thus far assisting in planning and applied research. "I have learned about the inner-workings of the different wastewater treatment process, but I also am pushed to think critically and provide high quality work."

Central San's Human Resources Manager, Teji O' Malley, stated "our interns work hand-in-hand with our skilled employees to apply their education to real projects. There is no sorting and filing here (okay, maybe just a little filing). The program helps prepares students for the future workforce. In fact, nearly 20% of our current employees began their tenure at Central San as interns."

Thank you Central San, from all of us in the internship program!

Central San provides internship opportunities to students who are studying in related fields including administration, engineering, laboratory sciences, and communications. Internships are sixmonth full-time positions, and students must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program to qualify. If you or someone you know is interested in the Central San Internship Program please visit, www.centralsan.org/careers.





HOLIDAY COOKING / HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

This Holiday Season Remember: Oil & Water Don't Mix

he holiday season is the busiest time of year for plumbers! During this time, people tend to prepare elaborate meals, deep-fry turkeys, and invite more people into their homes. As a result, the amount of fat, oil and grease going down kitchen sinks increases dramatically. Fat, oil and grease are a major cause of sewer clogs and overflows.

Prevent clogged pipes and sewage overflows from ruining your holidays by doing the following:

- Keep all fat, oil and grease and fatty foods from going into the sink, garbage disposal, drains, and sewers.
- To dispose of fat, oil and grease put them into a lidded container, mix in an absorbent material, seal the container and put it in the trash.
- Bring large quantities of used cooking oil (such as from a turkey fryer) to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility (see location below).

We Recycling – The oil you bring to Central San's Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility is collected and used to produce biofuel.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez, CA 94553-4392 1-800-646-1431



HOURS: Residents:

ents: Monday – Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Reuse Room closes at 3:30 p.m.)

Businesses: Monday – Saturday, by appointment only Holiday Closures: Nov. 12, 22 & 23, Dec. 24- 31,

Jan. 1 & 15, Feb. 12 & 19





Upgrading Our Vast System of Pipes

ne of Central San's six strategic goals is to maintain a reliable infrastructure. While many might think of the treatment plant as the largest asset that Central San is responsible for, it is actually the 1,540 miles of sewer pipes and 18 pumping stations that make up our collection system. Over the past 10 years, Central San has spent \$148 million on collection system projects, and plans to spend an additional \$310 million over the next ten years to ensure system and service reliability.

Our collection system was constructed over many decades, with over half of the system consisting of clay or cement pipes that were installed more than 45 years ago. Ideally, we want to get as much use out of the existing infrastructure as possible; however, we must balance that with the increased costs of maintaining older pipes and the risk of pipe failure.

Determining the best time to replace these pipes requires a lot of information. We use video inspections of the sewers, maintenance schedules, previous stoppages and overflow data, and capacity needs as the criteria to determine when we replace pipes. Additionally, Central San coordinates with other utilities and cities to time projects around other improvements, including paving streets.

Based on results from the above investigations, engineers create separate projects consisting of pipe segments that are in close proximity to each other. Currently, Central San is replacing nearly seven miles of sewer pipe a year.

Neighborhood Ŭpgrades

The South Orinda Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 7 will install approximately 8,000 feet of sewers at many different locations south of Highway 24 in Orinda in advance of paving projects planned by the City of Orinda. This project will begin in late spring/early summer 2019. Estimated Completion: October 2019

WALNUT CREEK: The Walnut Creek Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 13 will install approximately 8,500 feet of sewers primarily in the Walnut Knolls and Blackwood neighborhoods. Expected Completion: January 2020

LAFAYETTE/MORAGA: The Lafayette Sewer Renovation Project, Phase 12 is in progress and consists of installing sewers at multiple locations in Lafayette, including the Los Palos and Springhill neighborhoods. There will also be sewers installed along Moraga Road in the Town of Moraga. Expected Completion: January 2019.

The Lafayette Sewer Renovation Project,

Phase 13 will replace approximately 11,500 feet of sewers in various locations in Lafavette and Moraga. Sites include John Way and Bedford Place in Lafayette and, Moraga Way in the Town of Moraga.

Expected Completion: January 2020

DANVILLE: The Danville Sewer Renovation **Project, Phase 3** will be replacing approximately 5,000 feet of sewer mains in the Camino Tassajara/ Gil Blas neighborhood. Expected Completion: January 2020

For more information about these or other construction projects, please contact Community Affairs Representative Chris Carpenter at (925) 229-7200 or ccarp@centralsan.org, or visit CentralSan.org/Construction-Zones

ONLINE:

Detailed project maps are posted on our website, CentralSan.org (click on "Projects in my neighborhood" on the home page).

Do Not Flush Unwanted Medications!

he best way to dispose of your unwanted medications is to bring them to a free dropoff site (like those listed below). These sites provide safe disposal, and keep unwanted drugs out of your toilet or drain, which can pollute local waters. Transfer pills to a sealable plastic bag before depositing them in the bin. Leave liquids in their bottles, but seal them in a bag to prevent leaks.

Please do not put sharps or anything other than medications in the container!

A list of sharps disposal locations is online: **CentralSan.org/Pharmaceuticals**

For more information, visit **CentralSan.org/HHW** or call 1-800-646-1431.

New changes to California law will soon make it easier to dispose of your unwanted medications. Look for more information in our Spring 2019 Pipeline!

LOCAL PHARMACEUTICAL DROP-OFF SITES

Alamo Sheriff's Substation 150 Alamo Plaza, Suite C

Clayton Police Dept. 6000 Heritage Trail

Concord Police Dept. 1350 Galindo St.

Danville Police Dept. 510 La Gonda Way

Lafayette Police Dept. 3675 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 130

MARTINEZ:

- Police Dept. 525 Henrietta St.
- Sheriff's Field Ops Bldg. 1980 Muir Rd.
- Contra Costa Regional Medical Center 2500 Alhambra Ave.

Moraga Police Dept. 329 Rheem Blvd.

Orinda Police Dept. 22 Orinda Way **Pleasant Hill Police Dept.** 330 Civic Dr.

San Ramon Police Dept. 2401 Crow Canyon Rd.

Walnut Creek City Hall 1666 North Main St.

Many CVS and Kaiser pharmacies now offer drop-off services. Check **med-project.org** for locations near you.

Do You Have Tenants?

entral San offers free brochures and materials to property managers and landlords to educate tenants on how to protect their plumbing and decrease property damage caused by overflows and back-ups. If you are interested in free materials, please contact Lindy Lavender at (925) 335-7721.



You Can Get Recycled Water Too!

 The recycled water fill station is located at the Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility, 4797 Imhoff Place, Martinez

Hours are: Monday-Saturday, 9 am – 4 pm. (During wet weather and holidays, please call 925-335-7717.)

- Prior to using the filling station for the first time, you must read and fill out a Residential Recycled Water Use Application/Agreement (available at centralsan.org) and receive training.
- Bring your own containers, minimum size 1 gallon, which must have water-tight lids and be secured for safe transport. The maximum fill per trip is 300 gallons. There is no limit on the number of trips.



Let Us Know If You See An Overflow!

If you see, smell, or suspect a sewage overflow or spill, please call us at (925) 933-0955 or (925) 933-0990. We will dispatch a crew to investigate and take appropriate action as quickly as possible.



Get Rid of Fleas in your **Hom**e, the Bay Safe Way!

leas are never fun. These tiny parasites can cause discomfort for your beloved pets and may even leave you with itchy swollen bites.

Thankfully, there are things we can do to minimize their impact. Pet and big box store shelves are full of flea treatments including collars, sprays and foggers. However, while reducing flea presence in your home is important, it is also just as important to know that not all these products are created equal, and some can stop one problem while creating another.

Spot-on flea treatments, perhaps those you have in your home, often contain pesticides that can be harmful to our local waters. The active ingredients in these products typically pass through wastewater treatment plants and into our waterways, where they cause harm to the base of the aquatic food chain.

These active ingredients only reach about 5% of the flea cycle in your home, because they are topical solutions and do not remain where they are applied. Spot-on treatments are continuously rubbing off on your pet and anything they comes in contact with, including you. These toxic pesticides make their way into the sewer system

during bathing, handwashing and when we clean bedding, clothing and floors.

The good news is that there are immediate steps that you can take to kill flea eggs and larvae while also preventing the introduction of pesticides into Suisun Bay.

Tips for safely reducing fleas in your home:

- Frequently vacuum floors, furniture and your pet's bedding. Be sure to empty the vacuum canister each time.
- Replace carpets with hardwood flooring.
- Reduce clutter around your home to improve the effectiveness of vacuuming and dusting.
- Take a small table lamp and put it on the floor. Beside the lamp, place a shallow pan filled partially with water and a few drops of dishwashing liquid. Fleas are drawn to the light and become trapped in the water.
- Add one teaspoon of rosemary to boiling water, then remove from the heat. Next, wash your dog with regular shampoo. After rinsing, use the cooled rosemary tea as a final rinse. It will discourage fleas.

If further flea control is needed, talk to your veterinarian about using oral medications for your pet rather than spot-on products or flea collars.

To safely dispose of flea-control products, please bring them to our Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at 4797 Imhoff Place in Martinez.





"Hi Kids! My name is Kelvin and I work in the Central San Laboratory. Removing all the poop, and cleaning all the water that gets flushed with it is our job. We clean millions and millions of gallons of water every day. To check if the water is clean, we rely on microscopes to help us! Microscopes are scientific instruments that allow us to see things that are too small for our eyes to see."





We Are Here To Help...

		Board meetings are open to the
General Information	(925) 228-9500 or CentralSan.org	public and are usually held on
Sewer Overflows	(925) 933-0955 ог 933-0990	the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 1:30 p.m.
Recycled Water Fill Station InfoLine	(925) 335-7717	in the Central San Board Room, 5019 Imhoff Place, Martinez.
Treatment Plant InfoLine (Report Odors)	(925) 335-7703	
Household Hazardous Waste InfoLine	(800) 646-1431 or CentralSan.org/HHW	
Sewer connection permits/Permit Counter	(925) 229-7371	
To report illegal discharges into sewer system	(925) 229-7288 (during business hours); (925) 229-7214 (after hours)	
Environmental Compliance	(925) 229-7288	
Employment Opportunities	CentralSan.org	
Student Education Programs	(925) 229-7310 or CentralSan.org	
Community Information Line	(925) 335-7702	



Central San serves 484,200 customers within its 145-square-mile service area.

Wastewater collection & treatment; Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) disposal for 344,600 people.

Wastewater treatment & HHW disposal for 139,600 people in Concord & Clayton by contract.

- HHW disposal only.
- Central San headquarters, treatment plant, HHW Facility & Residential Recycled Water Fill Station.

The Central Contra Costa Sanitary District PIPELINE

Written and designed by Central San staff to communicate pollution prevention messages to the people and communities we serve.

Lindy Lavender, Editor, Writer Charles Waltmire, Graphic Designer

View archived issues online at CentralSan.org

PIPELINE is printed with soy-based inks on Recycled Paper

Please **share or recycle** this newsletter.