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### WCCD Board Serves You

Board members encourage WCCD customers to attend their open, regular meetings at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month in the District office. Meeting minutes are posted on the District's web site at [www.wccdin.org](http://www.wccdin.org). Board members are interested in what residents have to say and encourage them to share comments and concerns.



**Collect. Purify. Restore.**

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Office Hours 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Emergencies (317) 491-3593

## Benchmarking our performance

***West Central Conservancy District is firmly committed to performing our job of collecting, purifying and restoring wastewater at the highest possible level, and we're proud that we have been able to do that since 2002 without a raise in our rates.***

The District has always based its residential rates on the water industry's recognized national average for a family of three - 9,000 gallons a month. This is also the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's sewage requirement for a new subdivision. (IDEM requires that in the design stages, a developer has to be able to show that sewage can be handled in a monthly volume that equates to water use of 310 gallons a day per household times 30 days, so roughly 9,000 gallons per household per month.)

When benchmarking our performance, we often compare rates with nearby communities and districts. Like the District, some wastewater treatment providers charge a flat monthly rate. Others charge a monthly fee plus a certain rate based on water usage. When we make a rate comparison like the one shown here, we convert those rates to a figure that equates to the industry standard 9,000 gallons a month, so there is a common benchmark for comparison.

A wastewater treatment provider can use water consumption as a basis for sewer billing if it controls the water. The District does not control the water. Therefore, it determines a flat rate to be more equitable for its specific purpose.

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### Benchmark Comparison - Wastewater Treatment Rates vs Size and Age of Municipality

Town Name	Classification	Established	Population	Sewer Rate (9,000 gal. conversion)
Avon	Town	1995	7,992	-
Mooresville	Town	1824	11,679	\$33.67
Zionsville	Town	1852	10,218	\$34.00
West Central Conservancy District	-	-	-	\$45.00
Hendricks County Regional Sewer District	-	-	-	\$45.00
Danville	Town	1827	8,427	\$46.93
Ellettsville	Town	1837	6,059	\$63.80
Cumberland	Town	1831	5,617	\$70.18

# Collect. Purify. Restore.

## Benchmarking our performance - continued

For our customers, it's important to know that your monthly bill adequately covers three items: the District's operational costs/maintenance, debt service and depreciation, so no rate increases are anticipated. And while the District is designated as a special taxing district, we have not exercised our option to tax, as many wastewater utilities do. Our revenue comes solely from user rates and charges, so we are not adding to the taxes of our customers.

Another benchmark of our performance has always been our ability to respond positively to rapid development as businesses, schools and subdivisions have brought increased water use, and we will continue to support such development in the future. (See related story below.)

Much of the District's treatment plant and sewage collection infrastructure were in operation prior to the founding of Avon, which is a very new community compared to most Indiana towns. Our facilities have been upgraded, expanded and thoroughly maintained over the years, and with our last completed construction, the District can now purify 5 million gallons of wastewater each day - enough to fill eight Olympic-sized swimming pools!

Finally, we come to another performance benchmark - service. Wastewater treatment is one utility you really don't expect to, or want to, think about. You just want it to work! We believe the service the District provides works well. West Central Conservancy District is committed to collecting, purifying and restoring wastewater well into the future.

## Trueblood wins environmental scholarship



The Indiana Water Environment Association (IWEA) has awarded a \$1,000 Besozzi Scholarship to Cory Trueblood, assistant plant superintendent for West Central

Conservancy District. Trueblood, who has been with the District since 2004, is pursuing a B.A. degree in Environmental Studies from Ashford University. The IWEA awards only one scholarship annually from the Leo Besozzi Scholarship Fund, which provides opportunities for wastewater professionals to continue their education of the water environment. Trueblood will attend the group's annual meeting in November, where he will be recognized for his accomplishment.

## District - Avon schools partnership benefits community

**West Central Conservancy District has played a key role in helping the Avon Community School Corporation meet its five-year goal of eliminating all portable classrooms.**

Instrumental in meeting that goal was the completion of River Birch Elementary School, which opened at the beginning of this school year at 5456 East 75 North in Washington Township. According to School Superintendent Dr. Timothy Ogle, the new school opened on time, thanks in part to the District's completion of a new sewer line, the White Lick Interceptor, ahead of schedule and under budget. "We were very pleased with that," Ogle said.

"We partnered with WCCD on installation of the sewer line," Ogle explained. "With the new line in place and the new

school to attract families, we can anticipate that the area is ripe for development, which is great for the community."

Ogle said, "Now that River Birch is open, the corporation is able to begin removing portable classrooms. WCCD's cooperation has made it possible for us to reach our goal of eliminating portable classrooms."



## Dumping waste; storm water into manholes is costly, harmful and illegal

***There are hundreds of manholes over the sanitary sewer lines running throughout the West Central Conservancy District's 25,000-acre area, and illegal dumping of materials into those manholes can be a huge problem for the District. It is a problem Gary Padgett, supervisor of system operations, and his technicians deal with on an almost daily basis.***

"Recently we had someone pull an RV up to one of our sanitary sewers and dump waste from the RV into our system," Padgett said. "Another problem is with septic tank waste haulers who put their waste down our manholes. You would be surprised what some people try to dump into the manholes."



Padgett explained that people who take these kinds of short-cuts don't realize how their actions can harm a wastewater treatment system that is operating for the benefit of the whole community. When unknown substances are dumped into the system, they can potentially kill or severely limit the biological process of treating wastewater.

"We've even had waste haulers dump grease they've collected from restaurant grease traps down the manholes," Padgett said. "This builds up in the sewer lines and limits the flow capacity of the collection system." Most people don't realize that whether they're waste haulers or private individuals, they can be charged a steep fine for dumping substances into the sanitary sewers.

From time to time, residents will purposely remove manhole covers during heavy rains to keep low-lying parts of their yards from flooding. "The additional 'clean liquid' that enters the sewer system means we're treating water that doesn't need to be treated," Padgett explained. "This can affect operating costs, and in turn, could affect rates and charges." For the same reason, people should not release water from sump pumps into the sanitary sewer manholes.

Anyone who purposely removes manhole covers is subject to a fine, Padgett said. When the manhole cover is off, all kinds of objects - rocks, tree limbs, yard waste, even toys - get

**NO DUMPING ALLOWED**



thrown or slip into the system and can cause blockages that can result in wastewater backing up into customers' yards and homes.

Obviously, an open manhole also is very dangerous. Anyone - adults, children, pets - who is unaware that a manhole is open, especially if it is covered by water, is in danger of falling into a sewer that might be anywhere from 4- to 20-feet deep.

Storm sewers and sanitary sewers are separate systems. Storm water, street and yard drainage is the responsibility of the Town of Avon or Hendricks County, which provide the storm sewers.

To report illegal dumping of substances into the sanitary sewers, please call the District at 272-2980 or 491-3593.



## *Sewer line cleaning in progress*

The District has had its trucks out this summer cleaning the sanitary sewer lines in several neighborhoods. Cleaning of the lines prevents them from becoming clogged and causing backups. We closely monitor the pressure and perform the cleaning operation as carefully as possible. Please direct any questions you may have to the collection supervisor at 491-3593.



***Bobby Patton and Dan Raley carefully perform the line cleaning operation in the Timber Bend neighborhood utilizing the District's GapVax truck.***

### ***WCCD 2010 Regular Board Meetings***

Monday, October 18, 2010  
Monday, November 15, 2010  
Monday, December 20, 2010

### ***Board of Directors***

Karl P. Buetow - Chairman  
Linda L. Scott - Vice Chairman  
Paul M. Allen - Secretary  
W. James Webb - Financial Secretary  
William Holland - Member

### ***Recycled Newsletter***

The newsletter you're reading is printed on recycled paper with up to 10 percent post-consumer recycled content. This is part of WCCD's effort to be a leader in environmental responsibility.

