

# THE WCCD NEWS

An Update from your West Central Conservancy District

Volume IV, Number 2 • Fall 2008 Edition

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Water from a nearby retention pond is seeping into this broken cleanout cap. The WCCD asks Avon residents to look for problems like this and report them to the WCCD. This broken cap is causing water flow that takes up space needed to carry sewage to the treatment plant.

## WCCD Board Serves You

District residents elect West Central Conservancy District's board of directors, who serve four-year terms on a rotating basis. The 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 Website 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.

### **Board of Directors**

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

## Watchful Eyes Help Keep Treatment Costs Competitive

West Central Conservancy District employees recently completed a major sewer main repair project in the Bridgewater subdivision, stopping more than 100,000 gallons of water per day that was flowing to the treatment plant for unnecessary processing.

Employees discovered the Bridgewater leak through WCCD's inflow and infiltration program, which uses a small camera device to examine the inside of pipelines. The camera gives WCCD employees a 360-degree picture of the inside of the lines so they can detect cracks or breaks.

This system serves as the underground eyes of the District. "Detecting leaks and cracks with the camera saves us a lot of time and money," explained Gary

Padgett, supervisor of system operations. "Bridgewater is one of many subdivisions where we made repairs. We have another project coming up where we'll stop about 500,000 gallons per week from flowing into the plant."

The WCCD has used the inflow and infiltration program since December 2004, and it has saved the District thousands of dollars. "But, the cameras can't find everything," Padgett said.

That's one reason the WCCD is asking residents to help. "We need to continue to find leaks and breaks so we don't treat excess water. This keeps our treatment costs competitive and as low as possible," said Pat DeFord, systems operator and locator technician.

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## What You Can Look For



### ***Broken cleanout caps***

Broken cleanout caps allow rainwater and drainage water to infiltrate into sewer lines. These caps are usually located three to four feet away from your house. They are often found in the landscape beds that are covered of mulch. For example, after the June floods, the WCCD was treating an enlarged quantity of water coming from an overflowed retention pond because someone had ran over their sewer cap with a lawn mower. If you have a broken cap, contact us and we'll replace it free of charge.

◀ This is a repaired sewer line cleanout cap that employees of the WCCD fixed. This is what a healthy sewer cleanout cap should look like.



### ***Low lying areas***

Anytime you see water spewing from the ground, you need to inform the WCCD. Just recently, a resident called the office because of bubbling water. The problem? A water main break underground. "In this case, we contacted the Indianapolis Water Company and they were able to make the necessary repairs to stop it," Padgett said. It could just as easily have been a broken sewer line.

◀ Contact the WCCD staff if you notice water like this collecting in your yard or other places.



### ***Dislodged manhole covers***

Some residents purposely take off manhole covers to keep their backyards from flooding during heavy rains. This causes problems because it increases the water flow to the District. "This not only overloads our system, the act is also illegal per the District's 'Use' Resolution," said Ron Goff, District Manager. Those who purposely remove manholes are subject to a fine. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE MANHOLE COVERS.

◀ This manhole was purposefully knocked off to drain a low-lying area. This activity is illegal.



### ***Sump pumps***

Do not connect sump pumps to the District's sanitary sewer system. That water flow takes up space needed to carry sewage to the treatment plant and contributes to the pollution of waterways. For these reasons, the connections are deemed illegal by the state. Many homeowners may not even know their downspouts and sump pumps are connected to sanitary sewers because that work was done by contractors when the home was built. The pipe from your sump pump should discharge onto your yard. If your sump pump is connected to any other pipe in your home, it is most likely incorrectly connected to the WCCD sanitary sewer system. If your pump is connected to your washing machine, water softener, sinks, bathtubs, showers, swimming pools and toilets, it will discharge into the WCCD system.

◀ This homeowner's sump pump is connected to the WCCD's sanitary sewer system. Connections like this are illegal.



### ***Down spouts***

These, too, should never be connected to the District's sanitary sewer system. If your downspouts disappear into the ground, it's highly possible they are incorrectly connected to the WCCD's system. The water from your downspouts should discharge onto your yard where it can percolate into the ground. You could also collect the water in a barrel or cistern for later use to water flowers, shrubs, trees and gardens.

◀ Please remember that bypassing a septic system to pump into a manhole is illegal and will prompt the District to take appropriate legal action.

## New Plant Superintendent Welcomed

Dave Humpal became the West Central Conservancy District's plant superintendent in September, replacing Richard Hedge.

Humpal's wastewater treatment career started in the Air Force, where he served four years. After that, he worked in Maryland and then Ohio. While living in Ohio, Humpal, his wife and their son traveled to Indianapolis for a vacation. "We liked the family atmosphere," Humpal said. "Indianapolis is a big-town with a small town flavor."

After relocating to the Indianapolis area, Humpal took a job at the wastewater treatment plant in Fishers, while there he obtained his Class IV Certification from the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). He later took a position at the wastewater treatment plant in Carmel.



As the West Central Conservancy Districts' new plant superintendent, Dave Humpal oversees the daily operations of the treatment plant.

When Humpal interviewed at the WCCD for the plant superintendent position, he was impressed. "I liked the place," he said. "It was clean, its team seemed competent and talented and I found the District to be proactive in meeting the training needs of its employees."

Humpal is eager to see that training continue.

"We are working toward getting all of

our workers certified," he said. "That allows them to understand and demonstrate their knowledge of how to treat wastewater. There's a lot of knowledge needed in this job. We need to be aware of mechanical items, electrical items, microbiology, math formulas and more. We continuously must process that knowledge during the work day to ensure we're doing the best job we can for the people we serve."

## WCCD Is Proud of Its Personnel's Accomplishments

For West Central Conservancy District employees, career advancement is encouraged so its team can continue to offer the best service possible. Here are some recent accomplishments:

Debbie Sillery, Assistant District Manager, has been elected president of the Association of Indiana Conservancy Districts. She will serve a one-year term. She replaced outgoing president Bill Holland, a member of the WCCD Board of Directors. The Association serves as an information resource that responds to the concerns of conservancy districts throughout the state. It also monitors the Indiana Legislature concerning proposed changes in laws affecting conservancy districts. Sillery is also president of the North Putnam School Board.

Pat DeFord, Bobby Patton and Sillery completed and passed the Indiana Water Environment Association's sewer construction inspection course.

Patton and DeFord also completed a course entitled Basic Electricity for the Non-Electrician that taught participants to

understand and work with industrial electricity. Knowledge learned in this class will help Patton and DeFord troubleshoot when there are problems at the District's 38 lift stations. It also will save the District money because WCCD won't have to hire outside contractors for minor electrical problems.

Assistant Plant Superintendent Shawn Massingale has earned his Class IV Operators Certification, which is the highest certification Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) gives.

Consultant Rich Huyck, who was once lab manager for Muncie Wastewater Treatment Plant and is recognized for his laboratory proficiency, came to the WCCD headquarters and provided additional training to employees on laboratory procedures and analysis. Matt Hill, Shawn Massingale, Cory Trueblood, Jon Love, Chris Tucker and Dave Humpal earned a combined number of 105 hours of Continuing Education Units, which are required for the certified operators to maintain their IDEM certifications.



Matt Hill tests the amount of ammonia in a water sample at the WCCD's newly updated lab.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND FREEHOLDERS  
FROM THE WEST CENTRAL CONSERVANCY DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND STAFF

# THE WCCD NEWS

## How to Contact Us:

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# WCCD NEWS

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Avon, Indiana 46123*

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## 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.



## Spirit Times Three

West Central Conservancy District employees this year teamed up with colleagues from Brownsburg and Whiteland to compete in a statewide event that challenges and inspires those in the wastewater industry.

WCCD employees Gary Padgett and Pat DeFord helped their team take home the Team Spirit Award for the third year in a row. Padgett is supervisor of system operations. DeFord is a systems operator.

The Indiana Water Environment Association has sponsored this annual statewide wastewater competition for 20 years. The event serves as a place to gather and demonstrate expertise and skills workers use daily.

"It's a fun way to learn from others in the industry," DeFord said.

## Epay Program is Efficient and Easy to Use

Use the Internet to pay your bill by going to [wccdin.org](http://wccdin.org). If you make your payment using our online service, your payment is posted immediately. In addition, by taking advantage of WCCD online payment options, you can be assured that if a problem or error occurs involving a payment to your account, it will be researched and resolved in a timely manner.

Please remember that this Epay option



is different from the Online Bill Payment Services through your bank. When your financial institution receives your online payment, they mail a paper check to WCCD. It may take five to seven business days for your check to arrive at our office,

which means you must make sure you pay your bill early enough for the bank to process it and send it to us to ensure you won't receive a late fee.

### Other payment options:

- **Automatic Payments** through WCCD's Auto Pay Program. You can do this by using your credit card or checking/savings account information.
- **One-time Telephone Payment.** Call 317.272.2980 once and give us your checking/savings account information or credit card number.
- **Walk-in.** You can come in and pay your bill in person Monday thru Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the District office located at 243 South Co Road 625 East. To do this, you may use cash, check or a credit card.
- **Snail Mail.** Send a check or money order to P.O. Box 447, Danville, IN 46122.