

Wastewater News

Grease Collection and Recycling Event (*Cooking Grease ONLY*)

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) from your kitchen should never be poured down your drain. Instead, store it in a can and bring to our 15th Annual Grease Collection and Recycling Event on January 4, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

FOG adheres to the inside of pipes within the sewer system and over time will clog sewer lines completely. Wastewater travels to water reclamation facilities using gravity and is unable to flow through the pipes. These blockages can result in a Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO). A SSO is the backup of raw sewage into the street, the environment, or even into your house or business through sinks, tubs, showers, or toilets.



Grease Collection and Recycling Locations

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| East | O’Rielly Chevrolet | 6160 E. Broadway Blvd. |
| Midtown | City Council Ward 3 Office | 1510 E. Grant Rd. |
| Northwest | Pima Community College Northwest Campus | 7600 N. Shannon Rd. |
| South | Kino Sports Complex | 2500 E. Ajo Way |
| Sahuarita | Sahuarita Town Hall Complex | 375 W. Sahuarita Center Way |
| West | Pima Community College West Campus | 2202 W. Anklam Road |

Store it, don’t pour it!

You can always recycle your grease at the year-round location listed below:

Agua Nueva WRF/Jacobs
2947 W. Calle Agua Nueva, Tucson, AZ 85745
520-405-0438



First Ever Tucson Citizen Water Academy Fall Session was a Huge Success!

Roughly 30 attendees received an inside look at all facets of water and wastewater during the Tucson Citizen Water Academy (CWA). Tucson Water, the University of Arizona’s Water & Energy Sustainable Technology Center, and Pima County Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department (RWRD) hosted the CWA with four consecutive Wednesday evening series held on September 25, October 2, 9, and 16. To assist our ratepayers, the fall session of CWA was scheduled in the evening to accommodate work schedules and other daytime commitments. The CWA provided an inside look at how citizens are part of the local water cycle; examined drinking water supplies, explained the wastewater reclamation process, compliance regulations, and discussed research and innovations for the future. Not only did CWA provide citizens a better understanding of what happens after the flush; it also detailed what it takes to run water and wastewater utilities and explained the breakdown in what utility service fees fund.



Subject matter experts from all CWA collaborators shared the method and science behind our water resources and the wastewater treatment process. RWRD Director Jackson Jenkins stated, “RWRD staff are proud of what we do for our community every day. We look forward to venues such as the CWA to help give stakeholders a better understanding of the many facets involved in providing this service to our customers. We are a diverse organization with many dedicated



employees with special and technical skill sets that allow us to fulfill our mission.”

CWA’s attendees enjoyed this eye opening experience filled with science. Attendee Mimi Battin shared her experience, “It was fantastic, and some of my friends read all of the handouts. This has just been marvelous. I’ve learned so much.” Cindy McCain suggested, “Somehow this has to get scaled up and scaled out so that it touches each one of us to be a responsible water user and how do we work with you not against you because I recognize the seriousness of the situation.” Employee dedication did not go unnoticed by attendee Peggy Ollerhead, “Your employees should know that it was the pride they all seemed to take in their work I was very impressed by that and the fact that they donated their time to take us on the tours. I think universally they all seemed to

really take pride in whatever their role was at the facilities and I was very impressed by that.”

The CWA will run two sessions yearly, one in the spring and one in the fall so keep your eyes pinned for the spring 2020 academy!

Wipes clog pipes!

Disposable wipes should NOT be flushed! If disposable wipes make it through RWRD’s 3,500 miles of sanitary sewer system, they are removed at the beginning of the treatment process and are taken to a landfill. However, Rex Kinney, a master plumber with Jersey Plumbing Service in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, shared on NBC’s Today Show that most wipes do not make it past the 45-degree elbow within the homeowner’s plumbing pipes going out to the public conveyance system.

Wipes are not biodegradable in the public sanitary sewer system and their presence can cause clogs and equipment failure in lift stations where mechanical pumps facilitate the conveyance of sewage in many areas of the community. Obstructions in sewer pipes could lead to SSOs and/or costly repairs to the equipment at our water reclamation facilities. So please remember wipes are not flushable. Wipes clog pipes!



Source:

Lowe, Lindsey. (April 23, 2019). Are flushable wipes really flushable? What happens to those flushable wipes once they go down the drain? Retrieved from https://www.today.com/series/one-small-thing/are-flushable-wipes-really-flushable-t151945?cid=sm_npd_td_fb_ma&fbclid=IwAR2_YvXVBxObrlWPy2fHA3-N-p444m5wzQW-FONSO4XN4OMuNEXqjERHxDs October 30, 2019.

Regional Wastewater Reclamation Department Contact Information

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| General Information (during regular business hours) | (520) 724-6500 |
| Roach Control Hotline | |
| (Automated line, please provide requested information and staff will return the call)..... | (520) 724-3401 |
| Billing Section | (520) 724-6609 |
| Sewer Emergencies | (520) 724-3400 |
| To Report Odors | (520) 724-3400 |
| Sewer Outreach Subsidy (Low-income bill assistance) | (520) 791-5443 |
| Sewer Connection Information | (520) 724-9000 |
| To Report Vandalism | 911 |

You can also access this information and more on our website:
www.pima.gov/wastewaterreclamation



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