



# PROPOSED ANGOLA NECK SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

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## User Charge Estimates

The County recovers the cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining sanitary sewer systems through its standard user charge system. The construction cost of the project will be recovered through an annual front foot (FF) assessment charge, while the cost of operating and maintaining the system will be recovered through an annual service charge. All properties are required to pay the annual front foot assessment charge, which will be billed quarterly on the County's sewer bill. Only improved properties pay the annual service charge, which will be billed quarterly.

The County also will use a system connection charge to collect the costs for the use of the existing Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility. This is a one-time fee that is required before connecting to the system.

The **estimated** fees are shown below:

- Service Charge: \$286.00/home/year
- Assessment Charge: \$9.38/FF/year
- System Connection Charge: \$3,375/home (one-time)

Typical annual bills are shown below using these charges:

- 50 FF with home      \$755.00/year
- 75 FF with home      \$990.00/year
- 100 FF with home    1,225.00/year

These charges will not begin until the system has been constructed and is operational.

***\*The County is currently continuing to review construction costs and may present revised estimated user charges at the Public Meeting on Saturday, August 4, 2007.***



## SANITARY SEWER DISTRICT BOUNDARIES SET

On June 26, 2007 the Sussex County Council established the final boundaries for the proposed sanitary sewer district. Angola Beach and Angola Beach Estates have been excluded from the district. No other changes have been made. View a detailed map of the boundaries at:

[www.sussexcountyde.gov/go/angolasewer](http://www.sussexcountyde.gov/go/angolasewer)

## Referendum to be Held

A referendum will be held on Saturday, August 18, 2007 from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Lewes-Rehoboth Fire Station #3, 21194 John J Williams Highway, near Angola. If you are unable to vote in person at the referendum, please see the section on absentee ballots.

**All voters must bring some type of identification with your picture (i.e., driver license).**

## **PUBLIC MEETING TO BE HELD**

The Sussex County Engineering Department will conduct an informational meeting on Saturday, August 4, 2007 at the American Legion Post 28, 31768 Legion Rd, and Route 24, Millsboro, Delaware. The purpose of the meeting will be to answer questions regarding the proposed sewer system and rates prior to the referendum and explain the voting rules as outlined in the State Law (Title 9, Del Code, Section 6519). The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. All property owners and residents affected by the proposal are encouraged to attend.

## **Project Costs and Financing**

The estimated construction cost of the project is \$35.6 million dollars. The County anticipates financing the project through a series of grants, loans and developer contributions. Loans from the State Revolving Fund at an annual percentage rate of 1.5% for 30 years and from Rural Development, USDA, at 4.5% for 40 years are anticipated at this time. Requests will also be made to the USDA, the State and the County Council for grant funding for the project.

## **PROPOSED WASTEWATER SYSTEM**

Sussex County's consultants, Whitman, Requardt and Associates, have recommended a standard gravity wastewater collection system for the proposed Angola Neck Sanitary Sewer District. Pipelines ranging in size from 8 to 18 inches will be placed within existing rights-of-way, where possible, with a few parcels receiving grinder pumps. Individual connections will be provided for each home at the street right-of-way. The wastewater will be collected at several small pumping stations and pumped to a new regional pump station on Angola Road, from there the wastewater will then be pumped to the Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facilities on Cannon Road for treatment and disposal.

## **ABSENTEE BALLOTS**

Absentee ballots are available for anyone unable to vote in person at the referendum on August 18, 2007. We recommend that you take action ASAP to insure that there is adequate time to complete the balloting process, which includes several steps. First you must request an absentee ballot package be mailed to you. Note that the package includes an affidavit that must be executed and notarized, then submitted back to our office. If our review determines that you are an "eligible voter"\* , then an actual absentee ballot will be returned for your use. To be counted, all absentee ballots must be received in our office no later than 12:00 noon on August 17, 2007. Please call Mrs. Lora Hudson at (302) 855-7839 to obtain an absentee ballot package.

\*(See "Who Can Vote").

## **WHO CAN VOTE**

*The Delaware State Law determines who can vote in a sewer district referendum in Sussex County. To be eligible to vote, you must meet only one of the following criteria:*

### **If you are a permanent resident...**

Any person who is at least 18 years old and has had their principal place of residency within the proposed district for the six months immediately preceding the date of the election. If you qualify as a permanent resident, you may ignore the other criteria listed below.

**OR**

### **If you are a non-resident...**

Any person who owns real estate in the proposed district on the date of the election, regardless of where they live, unless the land is leased. If someone qualifies solely under this criteria and there are multiple owners listed upon the tax records of the County for the property in question, then there is allowed only one single vote from the whole of the property owners.

Any corporation that owns real estate in the proposed sanitary district on the date of the election, unless the land is leased from another property owner.

Any Leaseholder with a valid lease with an original term not less than 10 years. The lease must be recorded in the Recorder of Deeds of Sussex County, and a copy showing the Recorder's stamp must be presented by the leaseholder at the site of the referendum. If someone qualifies solely under these criteria and there are multiple persons listed upon the tax records of the County for the property in question, then there is allowed only one single vote from the whole of the leaseholders.

*If you qualify in any one of the ways described above, you may vote. However, each person may only vote one-time, regardless of how many ways they qualify. Please bring a valid form of identification, with a driver's license being preferred.*

## Upcoming Events

### Public Meeting

August 4, 2007, 9:00 a.m.  
American Legion Post 28,  
31768 Legion Road and Rte 24

### Deadline for Absentee Ballots

*August 17, 2007, 12:00 Noon*  
Absentee ballots will not be  
accepted after 12:00 noon on  
August 17, 2007.

### Referendum

*August 18, 2007, 8:00 a.m. to  
3:00 p.m.*  
*Lewes-Rehoboth Fire Station  
#3, 21194 John J Williams  
Highway, near Angola Neck*

## Assistance Programs

There are programs available to assist qualified homeowners with paying their quarterly sewer bills and paying for the costs associated with hooking-up to the sewer when it is complete. Details of these programs will be discussed at the public meeting on August 4, 2007. For more information, please contact Mrs. Patricia Faucett, Director of Utility Billing, at (302) 855-7871.

## The Woods on Herring Creek

If the referendum passes, the County will take over responsibility for the existing wastewater system. It will perform improvements to the existing collection system and upgrade the existing pump stations. It will also provide interim wastewater treatment and disposal services until the new Angola wastewater system is constructed. The interim solution may include pumping and hauling the wastewater to the County's existing Inland Bays Regional Wastewater Facilities (IBRWF) or tying into a nearby private wastewater treatment facility. When the new Angola system is complete, a connection will be made to the new system and the wastewater will be pumped to the IBRWF.



## IMPORTANT!

All of these items will be discussed again at the public meeting on August 4, 2007. Please try to attend.

## Archaeology & Historic Preservation

As part of the design process, Sussex County will be working with the Delaware State Historic Preservation Office, following Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, to take appropriate measures to identify any historic properties or archaeological sites located in the sewer district.

## Why Sewer?

Why is the Sussex County Engineering Department proposing a Sanitary Sewer District for Angola Neck? The State Law states that fifty or more legal voters of a proposed sanitary sewer district may petition the county government to submit the question of organizing a sanitary sewer district to a vote of electors in that district. The Sussex County Engineering Department received complaints of failing septic systems in the Angola Neck area and 274 property owners and full time residents submitted petitions for a sanitary sewer district.

## Other Costs

Once the wastewater system is constructed, property owners will be responsible for connecting to the sewer system and abandoning their existing septic system or holding tank. This process requires the property owner to hire a Sussex County licensed plumber to install the necessary piping from the connection at the property line to the home and to have the existing tank pumped and filled. There is a \$100.00 permit fee associated with making the connection.

## Homeowners Associations

This is a notice to any Homeowners Association and their representatives. If your association will be sending out any flyers or newsletters to your residents that will be discussing the proposed sewer district or rates associated with the district, please forward a draft of this information to the Sussex County Engineering Department to review for accuracy before distribution. Please send drafts or questions to Sussex County Engineering Department, Post Office Box 589 Georgetown, DE 19947 or email to [jashman@sussexcountyde.gov](mailto:jashman@sussexcountyde.gov)