

staff work inside the plant, they don Tyvek suits, rubber gloves, and respirators, and use sanitizers to wipe down work surfaces.

In addition to alternating staff, all Triview employees are not allowed to travel in the same truck in order to increase social distancing. Personnel must immediately self-quarantine upon the first signs of illness.

Sexton stated that he continues to develop con-

tingency plans in the event any utility staff become sick and is considering working with neighboring districts and staffing agencies that employ licensed public water system operators. Except for chemical replenishment, the water plants can be operated remotely.

Parks and Open Space Superintendent Jay Bateman added that his crews wipe down surfaces regularly and maintain the 6-foot safe distance by not traveling together to work sites. Bateman also suggested that anyone using the district playground equipment should wipe down surfaces with various disinfecting wipes prior to allowing their children to use the equipment.

McGrady emphasized that, due to COVID-19, the program to replace current water meters with cellular meters had been placed on hold until September or possibly later. However, if any residents would like a new cellular meter installed so that they can monitor their water use in 15-minute increments, they should call the district office and request a new meter be installed in their home by district staff.

### 2020 road overlay project given a "green light"

McGrady announced that the district received summer road rehabilitation project bids from three construction companies: Martin Marietta, Kiewit, and Schmidt Construction. Martin Marietta submitted the lowest cost proposal at \$886,147 and McGrady, after a thorough review of the proposal, recommended awarding the contract to them. Board directors unanimously authorized McGrady to award and sign the contract with Martin Marietta.

McGrady expressed a goal of getting an early start on the overlay project and completing it quickly to minimize inconvenience to district residents.

In another road-related discussion, Director James Barnhart requested an update on the Jackson Creek Parkway (JCP) widening project. The project encountered delays due to October 2019 snowstorms and continued winter weather, which pushed the project's completion into spring 2020. Bateman affirmed that Kiewit expected to resume work about mid-April. McGrady reminded the board that median work needed to be completed as well as constructing and paving the turn lanes into Monument Marketplace. He added that six continuous days of 50-de-

gree and rising temperatures were needed to ensure a quality asphalt mix for the final overlay.

### Public works and utilities

- McGrady and Superintendent Sexton confirmed that drilling for the new Denver Basin wells—wells A-9 and D-9 in the Sanctuary Pointe area—would be completed within a few days of the board meeting. They reported that other wells had been cleaned and new pumps and/or motors installed in preparation for summer demand. McGrady anticipated that, with all units online and functioning well, Triview's water system would be as strong as it's ever been going into the 2020 summer season.
  - The district restarted installation of a public works building for its JCP complex (on the east side of JCP and north of the JCP-Leather Chaps intersection). McGrady stated that the steel building had been ordered and plans had been submitted to the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department. He anticipated that construction would likely begin by June 1, the primary structure would be completed in 2020, and extraneous work, such as the parking lot, would be postponed to 2021. The facility, intended to support Public Works, Parks and Open Space staff and store equipment, has an estimated price of just less than \$600,000.
  - Parks and Open Space crews will be working alongside Landscape Endeavors in the coming weeks to install the new landscape elements of the JCP median. Drivers are encouraged to be extra vigilant while driving along the parkway.
- At 6:27 p.m., the board entered executive session §24-6-402(4)(b)(e) legal advice, negotiations.

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The next Triview board meeting is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. April 15. Check the district's event calendar at [www.triviewmetro.com/home](http://www.triviewmetro.com/home) or call 488-6868 for meeting schedule updates and to confirm if the meeting will be in-person, via conference call, or online. Board meetings are held at the district office, 16055 Old Forest Point, Suite 300, Monument. See also "Triview Metropolitan District" on Facebook, or [Twitter.com/@TriviewMetro](https://twitter.com/TriviewMetro).

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## Save the pipes, don't flush wipes

By Jennifer Kaylor

Using more hand sanitizer, soap, and wipes is a natural outcome of our attempts to keep the coronavirus from spreading. Unfortunately, wipes that go down the toilet continue to pose huge problems and expense for the sanitation industry.

There are two wastewater treatment facilities in the Tri-Lakes region: The Upper Monument Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Facility (UMCRW-WTF) and the Tri-Lakes Wastewater Treatment Facility (TLWWTF). The UMCRW-WTF provides wastewater services to commercial enterprises and residents in the Donala Water and Sanitation District (DWSD), the Triview Metropolitan District, and the Forest Lakes Metropolitan District. Businesses and residents within the Monument Sanitation District (MSD), the Woodmoor Water and Sanitation District, and the Palmer Lake Sanitation District receive wastewater treatment services from TLWWTF. Managers from these entities have named, at one time or another, "flushable" wipes as one of the biggest headaches

they face.

Despite the "flushable" label, consumers should not trust that any wipes will degrade sufficiently to prevent entanglements in the wastewater treatment infrastructure. In the Sep. 7, 2019 OCN issue, MSD Manager Mike Wicklund explained that "flushable" wipes are a problem nationwide. Repairs to equipment can cost thousands of dollars, and the time and effort it takes to extricate jams is time taken away from essential duties. Despite claims of biodegradability, wipes do not break down in the same manner as toilet paper. Wipes snarl into long ropes that clog sewer pipes and machinery. See <https://www.ocn.me/v19n9.htm#msd>.

DWSD General Manager and Administrator of the UMCRW-WTF Kip Petersen confirmed in a Nov. 2, 2019 OCN article that so-called "flushable" wipes attach to impellers, blades, and other equipment resulting in clogs and subsequent equipment repairs that are costly and time-consuming. Petersen emphasized the dangers of dental floss and facial tissue as well. Despite its apparent innocence, dental floss will accumulate over time and grow into enormous clogs. Facial tissue is not designed to dismantle when wet or damp, thus making it a hazard to wastewater systems.

In moments of indiscretion, people have unwisely flushed damaging items such as newspapers, paper towels, and pages or chunks of department store catalogs. Again, these items are not designed to biodegrade sufficiently and will eventually create minor to major disasters in the wastewater system. When common sense reigns, only human waste and toilet paper get flushed.

The message rings clear. Whether you use wipes profusely to tame viruses and other organisms or occasionally when soap or sanitizer isn't available, remember to dispose of used wipes properly. Put them in the garbage so they go straight to the landfill. Not only does proper disposal save your local sanitation district the hassle of remedying an unpleasant clog, but the lack of clog-related repairs keeps household and commercial wastewater service rates from climbing higher.

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