

# Pipelines

FEBRUARY 2010

## Contacting us

*Greene County  
Sanitary  
Engineering  
Department*

**Administration  
Building**  
562-7450

**Emergency  
Number**  
562-7450  
(after business  
hours)

**Billing**  
562-7457

**Customer Service**  
562-7495

**Public Relations**  
562-7679

**Environmental  
Services**  
562-5925

**Web Address:**  
[www.co.greene.  
oh.us/saneng/](http://www.co.greene.oh.us/saneng/)

## Economic downturn impacts District finances

The current downturn in the local building industry has resulted in significant reductions in revenues during 2009. The Greater Greene Little Miami Sewer District has minimized the impact of this revenue loss by refinancing existing debt and by reducing operational costs, including a reduction of the workforce through attrition.

The downturn, coupled with the completion of several major construction projects over the past few years that were critical in meeting

the demands of the sewer and water systems, makes it necessary to raise sewer rates by 5 percent effective January 1, 2010 and water rates by 3 percent effective February 1, 2010. Sewer rates were last increased in 2008 by 1 percent and in 2009 by 4 percent, while water rates were last raised in 2002. These increases will pay for major capital improvements that have been made to the district's water and wastewater systems.

### Minimizing Impact

By keeping the water and sewer rate increases to 3 and 5

percent respectively, County officials hope to minimize the impact of the rate changes on our customers. The average single family residential customer who uses 5,000 gallons of water a month will see their water bill increase by approximately \$0.83 per month and their sewer bill by \$1.65 per month.

Greene County Sanitary Engineering receives no tax dollars for the water and sanitary sewer systems. All costs are paid by the customers of the system.



## Paying bills

Customers can pay their bills at the following locations:

Security National Bank, 3566 Jasper Pike, Jamestown

Key Bank, 3294 Kemp Road, Beavercreek

Key Bank, 18 West Franklin, Bellbrook

Lofino's, 3245 E. Patterson Road, Beavercreek

Discount Drug Mart Store # 57, State Route 725, Bellbrook

Cedarville Hardware, 63 North Main Street, Cedarville

Customers can also pay their bills by mail, through automatic bank debit or in person at the Sanitary Engineering Department Administration Building, 667 Dayton-Xenia Road, Xenia, 45385, Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

## Go green by recycling

Many people are taking responsibility for helping the environment by "going green," including recycling. The Greene County Recycling Complex makes it easy and convenient to recycle. The Complex will take most residential recycling materials from residents at no cost.

The complex is located at 2145 Greene

Way Blvd in Xenia.

Starting in March, hours will be Monday through Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Recycling offers a number of benefits including conservation of our natural resources and protection of the environment. Any trash that is not recycled ends up in a landfill. Area

landfills are rapidly running out of space, and when that space is gone, new ones will have to be constructed. No one wants to live near a landfill, so it is better for everyone if the existing landfills last.

Please do your part in going green—reduce, reuse, and recycle.



## Learning to know your watershed

Watershed is a term we seem to hear frequently these days. But exactly what is a watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains into a specific lake or river. From an aerial view, watersheds have the appearance of a large tree with branches extending across the landscape.

The largest of principal streams of the watershed is the tree's trunk, while the larger branches are the primary streams and the smaller branches are secondary streams -- all feeding into each other as they make the journey into the larger main stream of the watershed.

As water molecules fall onto the surface of the earth they flow downhill. While moving downhill

they join with other water molecules to create a trickle. The trickle soon becomes a stream and the streams join together to form a river. Eventually the draining water finds itself to a lake or the ocean where it is stored for an undetermined amount of time.

Watersheds come in all shapes and sizes. Some encompass millions of square miles; others are just a few acres.

Ohio contains 44 "principal" watersheds, but all of them drain to either Lake Erie or the Ohio River.

Almost all of Greene County is in the Little Miami River Watershed,

which flows to the Ohio River.

Actually the northern third of Ohio drains to Lake Erie, while the southern two-thirds drains to the Ohio River. Watersheds are just nature's way of dividing up the landscape.

Watersheds cross county, state and even international borders. Another term for watersheds is a drainage basin.

Watersheds are elaborate mixture of natural resources: soil, water, plants and animals. Watersheds are continually evolving and changing.

Yet, everyday activities can impact these valuable resources and ultimately affect your region's water quality, well being and economic livelihood.