

DISTRICT DIGEST

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BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT NEWSLETTER SURVEY

The Brunswick Sewer District is evaluating the value of our newsletter. The cost to print and send the newsletter with quarterly bills is approximately \$3,000 per year. That doesn't include staff time to generate content. Your answers to this survey will help us determine if the newsletter should continue, and if so, in what form? Thank you for your input. Please fill out and return the survey with your payment or take the survey online at: <https://forms.gle/x2r1aMBHUSXRhGhm8>. You can also find a link to the survey, and view past newsletters, on our website at brunswicksewer.org.

1. How often do you read the newsletter?

Mark only one.

- Every time. I love it!
- This is my first time.
- On Occasion.
- There's a newsletter?
- Other: _____

2. Do you find the articles in the newsletter interesting and informative?

Mark only one.

- Yes
- No
- Sometimes
- Other: _____

3. Is there value in providing a printed newsletter?

Mark only one.

- Yes
- No
- Maybe
- Other: _____

4. Should the Brunswick Sewer District continue to produce a newsletter?

Mark only one.

- Yes! I love it.
- No. Not worth the \$3,000
- Yes, but in digital format only (website, pdf email, through social media, etc.)
- Other: _____

5. Have you ever visited or followed any of the BSD pages?

Check all that apply.

- brunswicksewer.org
- Facebook
- Twitter
- TikToK
- Instagram

Thank you for taking the time to fill out and return our survey. Your response is important in helping us determine the value and future of the Brunswick Sewer District newsletter.

GM DOUBLES UP ON AWARDS

Last month was special for our General Manager, Rob Pontau. First, he was recognized by the Natural Resources Council of Maine (NRCM) as a clean water champion at a celebration on the Androscoggin River in Auburn in honor of 50 years of the Clean Water Act. Pete Didisheim, NRCM Interim CEO, stated:

“We’ve heard some great stories today about the Androscoggin, once considered a “reeking mess of filth and debris.” But look at it now. Alive, restored, central to the life of Lewiston, Auburn, and those who live and recreate along this once-fouled river that motivated Senator Muskie to action. And we’ve achieved progress in so many other areas – with the help of our 100 Clean Water Champions, and the work of countless others.”

In addition to being recognized as a Clean Water Champion, General Manager Pontau was also presented with the Joint Environmental Training and Coordination Committee’s (JETCC) Lee Agger Award at the Maine Water Environment Association (MeWEA) annual conference.

“It is said that it was Lee Agger who put JETCC on the map, as she was a very dedicated sincere woman able to motivate many people to volunteer on behalf of environmental training. This Award was created by the JETCC Board to recognize fellow environmental professionals who have shown a similar dedication to JETCC”.

“Rob Pontau has demonstrated his commitment to JETCC through his contributions to a multitude of trainings over the last decade, including providing instruction on topics ranging from basic wastewater treatment to management approaches and strategies. He has hosted in-person classes at Brunswick Sewer District and even helped our South Portland team with tech support as we transitioned to remote learning at the beginning of the pandemic. Beyond his specific contributions to JETCC, Rob has also demonstrated his broader support for training statewide. He hosts and coordinates the “Water’s Up” podcast, and is a frequent presenter at association conferences, including MWUA, MEWEA, and the Maine Chapter of the American Public Works Association.” (JETCC)



Congratulations GM Pontau. The recognition is well deserved.

<https://www.nrcm.org/waters/celebrating-maines-clean-water-champions/>

<http://jetcc.org/lee-agger-award.php>

Recognition

Congratulations to our employees celebrating an anniversary in the 4rd quarter:

Matthew Densmore	<i>Treatment Plant Supervisor</i>	28 years
Lisa True	<i>Staff Accountant</i>	14 years
Robert Pontau Jr.	<i>General Manager</i>	12 years

Congratulations and thank you for your dedicated service to the District!



FUN FACTS FROM THE SEWER GUY

A sanitary sewer is an underground pipe or tunnel system for transporting sewage from houses and commercial buildings to a sewage treatment plant or septic system.

A sewer pipe’s life expectancy is about 75 to 100 years with good maintenance. Sewer pipes can be made of concrete, clay, cast iron or PVC (plastic). Most sewer lines are 4 - 6 inches in diameter but can be up to 12 inches.

The lifespan of a properly maintained septic system is 15 - 40 years. A typical residential septic tank is usually about 4 ft wide, 8 ft long and 6 ft high. Septic tanks should be pumped at 3-to-5-year intervals.

REMINDERS

When experiencing a sewer system problem, please contact the District **FIRST**. The 24-hour emergency number is **207-729-0148**. Make sure your plumber calls Maine Natural Gas before any tools are placed in your line.

Thinking of doing some yard work? Before your contractor digs, call **DIG SAFE (1-888-344-7233)**. It’s free and it’s the law.

Sewer bills may be paid by:

- Credit card or by e-check online, with a fee charged. (Fee is 2.75% of transaction amount with a \$1.95 minimum. Fee for e-check \$1) Please visit our website www.brunswicksewer.org for instructions.

- Automatic deduction from your checking or savings account (No fee charged). Go to our website and select the “I Want To” tab then “Set Up Direct Payment”. Complete the form and mail it to us at 10 Pine Tree Road, Brunswick, ME 04011 to complete the set up. Do not send in paperwork as a form of payment for your current bill; we need to process the set up with the banking institution prior to the billing.

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