

DISTRICT DIGEST

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BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

DEBT LIMIT REFERUNDUM PASSED!!

A very big thank you to the Brunswick voters who voted to increase our debt limit from \$20M to \$25M. Now we will be able to completely fund our treatment plant upgrade project. Please continue to check our quarterly newsletters, our website (www.brunswicksewer.org) and Facebook for the latest details on the progress of this project. We appreciate your support.

VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SEWER AND NATURAL GAS LINES

When natural gas lines are installed without open-cut trenches, there is the possibility, though rare, of the gas line being installed through your sewer line. Even if you do not have natural gas service to your home, there could still be a "cross-bore" through your sewer pipe as the gas line crossed in front of your property.

If a plumber hits that gas line with a cutter while trying to clear a blocked sewer pipe, it could puncture the gas line and natural gas could enter your home and endanger your safety.

PLEASE HAVE YOUR PLUMBER CALL THE LOCAL NATURAL GAS COMPANY (Maine Natural Gas at 207-729-0420 or 877-867-1642) before placing any equipment or cutters into your sewer service line.

If you have or suspect a plugged sewer line, please call us before or when you call a plumber. Sometimes the blockage is in the mainline sewer that we own.

COMING DOWN THE PIKE...

A LONG-TERM PROGRAM TO REDIRECT SUMP PUMP AND ROOF DRAIN DISCHARGES FROM THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM.

Over the past 10 years we have spent considerable time, effort and cost to reduce the amount of rain water and ground water entering the sewer system. All that extra water overwhelms the system and the wastewater treatment plant and makes it more difficult and costly for the treatment plant to separate the solids from the liquid.

Within the next three to five years we plan to start a program to identify properties with sump pumps and roof drains connected to our system AND to work WITH the property owners in a cooperative and mutually beneficial manner to develop and implement alternative solutions for the discharge of sump pump and roof drain flows. We cannot achieve this goal

by simply requiring property owners to disconnect sump pumps or roof drains from the sanitary sewer. We need to have both a viable and a permanent outlet for that water – such as to a municipal storm drain system.

One facet of this program will involve working with the Town to assess current and future needs for stormwater drainage systems as a first step in identifying what infrastructure may be needed. Before we can do that, we need to determine the extent of the problem. We will need to identify all the properties that have sump pumps connected to the sanitary sewer system so that we can map out the areas of Town affected. This is where the cooperation from the property owners will be critical to get

a true assessment. We cannot develop the best and most permanent solution without your help. Our goal is for the planning and implementation to be a very open and interactive process involving the District, the Town, and the affected property owners.

We are at the very early stages. Our first task during 2016 is to develop, for our Trustees review and acceptance, the framework that sets the goals for the program, the options and processes available or needed to achieve those goals, and a viable and realistic timeframe to accomplish this program. REMEMBER-this will be a very open and collaborative process.

DID YOU KNOW?

Sump Pumps are good and bad...

- A sump pump in your basement can save your home from damage and protect your personal belongings. THIS IS GOOD.
- It is not legal for sump pumps to be connected to the municipal sewer system. ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS ARE BAD.
- A typical sump pump can discharge up to 1 gallon of water every second. That's 60 gal/minute, 3600 gal/hour, 86,400 gal/day, and more than 2.5 million gallons (MG) a month.
- Clean water entering the sewer from illegal sump pumps, roof drains, and leaking pipes account for approximately 40% of the total flow at the treatment plant.
- Illegally connected sump pumps affect the treatment of sewer, increase maintenance costs, and increase sewer rates.
- If you have a sump pump that is connected to the sewer, please remove it for the benefit of all other users on the system. If you need help, or have questions, contact the District to see how we can help. There is no penalty or charges for contacting us.
- We want to work with you to find a better solution. THIS IS GOOD.



AARON TEMPLE RECEIVES MAINE EMS CERTIFICATION

Aaron Temple, one of our Collection Crew members, has earned his Maine Emergency Management System certification. As an EMT (Emergency Management Technician) he is sponsored by the Bowdoinham Fire Department. Aaron is now the only certified EMT in the Operations Division. Kudos, Aaron, on achieving this designation of service to your community and the District!



DANIEL MUNSEY GRADUATES FROM JETCC MANAGEMENT CANDIDATE SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that Dan has received his diploma for completion of the Management Candidate School. The MCS is designed to prepare mid-level water and wastewater personnel for career advancement in utility management. The class is presented by the Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). JETCC was originally created by the Maine Legislature through the Department of Environmental Protection to provide training to Maine's wastewater treatment plant operators. Congratulations, Dan, on achieving this goal!

Recognition

The following employees are celebrating anniversaries in the fourth quarter 2015:

Matthew Densmore	<i>Senior Operator</i>	21 years
Lisa True	<i>Staff Accountant</i>	7 years
Robert Pontau, Jr	<i>Assistant General Manager</i>	5 years

Thank you for your service to the District.

REMINDERS

When you are using water for your lawn, gardens, pools, or ice rinks you may be eligible for an outside watering credit. Please contact us **PRIOR** to the billing period--call 729-0148 ext 110 or e-mail ddutton@brunswicksewer.org. Please note that you will need to contact us each quarter in order to qualify for this outside watering credit.



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.

When experiencing a sewer system problem, please contact the District FIRST. The 24-hour emergency pager is 580-3175.

At the touch of a button you can skip the checks and stamps by paying your sewer bills online. This free service can be found at: www.brunswicksewer.org/odp.html. Don't forget to like us on Facebook.