

# DISTRICT DIGEST

Vol. 10 / Issue 4 / Nov-Dec 2021

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

## ANNOUNCEMENT OF RETIREMENT



Wesley Wharff

Wesley Wharff, the District's Collection & Pumping Division supervisor, has announced his retirement effective 12/31/2021. Wes began his employment in March 1988 as an operator. He was promoted to his current position in 1994. As a long-standing employee, he has witnessed the growth of the District and has successfully guided his division through many technological and procedural changes during his tenure.

Here are a few departing questions we have for our 33-year veteran:

**Do you remember what kind of car you drove when you first started at the District?** 1973 Chevy truck.

**Have you lived in Richmond the entire time you have worked at the District?** Yes.

**How long have you been married to Janice?** 44 years

**What do you plan to do after you retire?**

Some travel and spend time with family.

**What are your 2 favorite hobbies?** Hunting and fishing.

**What will you miss most about the District, if anything?**

Seeing all my co-workers every day.

**What is your proudest accomplishment over the past 33 years?**

Being part of the development of the GIS mapping system.

**What is your fondest memory?** I don't think I can say I have one but many, It has been a great experience being part of the team at BSD.

Congratulations, Wes, on your well-deserved retirement.

We appreciate all you have done for the district over the years, and we wish you the very best in this next phase of your life.

Here's to you!

## EMPLOYEE AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

### Roger Gagne Award

General Manager Leonard Blanchette and Collection System Supervisor Wesley Wharff were each awarded the Roger Gagne Award from the Maine Water Environment Association at its 2021 Fall Conference. The award is "In appreciation and recognition of your long-term service and exemplary commitment to the Maine Water Environment Association."

### Environmental Protection Agency Laboratory Proficiency Testing

Laboratory Technician Jason Prout successfully passed the EPA's DMR-QA 41 proficiency test. Receiving EPA's Certificate of Recognition for his participation and successful evaluation in DMR-QA 41. The test involves being sent pre-tested analytes from EPA, for which Jason had to also test the samples and arrive at the same results within the parameters noted by EPA. Mr. Prout achieved successful results in all six analytes he tested.

## Recognition

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

<b>Matthew Densmore</b>	<i>Senior Operator – Treatment Plant</i>	27 years
<b>Lisa True</b>	<i>Staff Accountant</i>	13 years
<b>Robert Pontau Jr</b>	<i>Assistant General Manager</i>	11 years

*Congratulations and thank you for your service to the district!*

## 2022 BUDGET INFORMATION

Staff is developing the 2022 Operations Budget for Board review at the December 09, 2021 annual budget meeting at 7 p.m. Staff is proposing a rate adjustment of 8%. The Board of Trustees will make the final decision as to any rate adjustment. If a rate change is adopted, the Board will hold a public hearing at the same time as the annual budget meeting.

## REMINDERS

### 2022 OUTSIDE WATERING CREDITS

Do you do substantial watering of a lawn or garden? Do you have a pool or hot tub to fill? Do you flood an ice rink in the winter? You may be eligible for an outside watering credit. **TO REQUEST THIS ADJUSTMENT, PLEASE E-MAIL [info@brunswicksewer.org](mailto:info@brunswicksewer.org) or CALL 729-0148 in the spring of 2022 when you begin watering outside to be placed on the list for the entire 2022 season. Your e-mail or call to us must be received before bills are processed. The district will NOT process any late notifications.**

### POLICY AMENDMENTS EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2020

These two amendments require the installation of a sub-meter to receive an adjustment for outside water use. You may view the "Sewer Use Billing Adjustment Policy" which can be found on our webpage ([www.brunswicksewer.org](http://www.brunswicksewer.org)) under the "POLICY" tab.

**New Construction/Connections:** All new residential and commercial connections to the public sewer system who wish to receive a billing adjustment for water not entering the public sewer **MUST use a sub-meter** per the requirements noted in the "SUB-METERED use" section.

**Property Ownership Transfers:** All new owners of public sewer connected residential and commercial properties who wish to receive a billing adjustment for water not entering the public sewer **MUST use a**

**sub-meter** per the requirements noted in the "SUB-METERED use" section.

Please contact us should you have questions concerning these policy amendments.

### OTHER 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](http://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.

Please like us on Facebook. Follow us @brunswicksewer on Twitter and Instagram.



## FUN FACTS FROM THE SEWER GUY

### SANITARY MAINTENANCE HOLES (AKA MANHOLES)

*These are 5 basic components to a sanitary maintenance hole:*

The Ring & Cover typically 24" diameter and made of a composite, ductile or cast iron.

The Chimney, Cone, Barrel, and Base sections are primarily made of concrete or brick and block. Locally, these structures range from 4' to about 30' deep.

The Collection & Pumping division is responsible for the cleaning, repair, inspection, and the change of direction of the District's more than 1,600 sanitary maintenance holes.

So, remember these are not just places for the Ninja Turtles to hide, they do have a purpose.

Oh, and please remember to support your local sewer worker and flush twice. Thank you!