

# DISTRICT DIGEST

Vol. 8 / Issue 4 / Nov-Dec 2019

BRUNSWICK SEWER DISTRICT *Protecting Maine's Environment*

## LEONARD BLANCHETTE IS RECOGNIZED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE TO MAINE'S JOINT ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING COORDINATING COMMITTEE

*By Leeann Hanson, JETCC Training Coordinator*

On Thursday, September 12th, Leonard Blanchette, of Brunswick Sewer District was presented with a Past Service Award for his work on the Board of Directors for the Maine Joint Environmental Training Coordinating Committee (JETCC). During his time on the JETCC Board, Lenny represented JETCC at countless MeWEA meetings and frequently traveled to Augusta to speak to the Maine Legislature on JETCC's behalf as well as on other industry topics.

During his tenure, Mr. Blanchette was instrumental not only in keeping JETCC funded amid many budget threats but also instrumental in obtaining increased funding for JETCC! Helping to steer JETCC's successful Management Candidate School over the past 10 years, and more recently the 6-month Wastewater Operator School, Len Blanchette has played a critical role in uniting operator interest throughout our industry always keeping in mind that JETCC was originally launched by Maine Water Environment Association.

Lenny exemplifies a high degree of professionalism in our industry and always strives for a better way of doing things or to find more resources for training. When presenting the award, NEIWPCC-JETCC's Leeann Hanson stated, "He has always given me a lot of support and confidence as the JETCC Training Coordinator as I can hear him say "It never hurts to ask" or "It never hurts to try!"



*Leeann Hanson, JETCC Training Coordinator presenting Leonard Blanchette his Past Service Award plaque.*

## 2020 USER RATE INFORMATION

Beginning in 2015, the District has increased its User Rate annually. 2019's increase was 5% across the board, the lowest since the trend began. Unfortunately, it was not sufficient to fund the required capital projects and we have had to request appropriations from the Capital and Operations reserve accounts in the amount of \$200,000. As

such, staff will again be requesting the Board of Trustees to consider a similar, if not larger, rate increase when they begin their review of our 2020 Operations Budget. The Annual Budget meeting is scheduled for November 21, 2019 at 6:00 PM at District Offices, 10 Pine Tree Road. We look forward to your attending.

# NEW EPA RULE PROHIBITS PHARMACEUTICAL FLUSHING BY HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Effective August 21st, health care facilities are prohibited from flushing pharmaceuticals down the toilet under new rules from the U.S. EPA, which incorporated the new rule into its regulations for the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), 40 CFR Part 266, Subpart P. The EPA created a new Section 505 that prohibits even very small quantity generators from discharging hazardous waste pharmaceuticals to a sewer system that passes through a publicly-owned treatment facility. The full rule can be found at: <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2019-02-22/html/2019-01298.htm>

# NEW BSD EMPLOYEE – BRANDON ELWELL

The District is pleased to announce the newest addition to our Collection & Pumping Crew – Brandon Elwell. Brandon has prior experience in the sewer industry but came to us to expand his knowledge of commercial & residential wastewater collection and treatment. Since joining us in April he has enjoyed working with the members on the crew in a very “professional atmosphere.”

Brandon lives in Harpswell with his wife, Keri and their two children – a boy Hayden, 13 and a girl Addison, 8. In his free time he loves being outdoors boating and fishing at his camp on Lake Moxie.

Brandon, welcome to the Brunswick Sewer District!



New BSD Employee, Brandon Elwell

## Recognition

The following employees are celebrating an anniversary in the 4th quarter.

They are:

**Matthew Densmore**  
Senior Operator, 25 years

**Lisa True**  
Staff Accountant, 11 years

**Robert Pontau Jr.**  
Assistant General Manager, 9 years

*Thank you for your service to the District!*

## REMINDERS

### OUTSIDE WATERING ADJUSTMENTS/ CREDITS FOR 2019

Do you do substantial watering of a lawn or garden? Do you have a pool or hot tub to fill? Or maybe an ice rink that you flood? You may be eligible for an outside watering credit. **TO REQUEST THIS ADJUSTMENT PLEASE CALL US** to be placed on the list for a potential adjustment. One call will place you on the list for all of 2019. Please call 729-0148 or e-mail [info@brunswicksewer.org](mailto:info@brunswicksewer.org) for more information.

**PLEASE NOTE: Your phone call to us must be received before bills are produced. The District will no longer process late notifications.** You may view the Sewer Use Billing Adjustment policy on our website or request a copy be mailed to you.

### REMINDER: CHANGES FOR 2020 SEWER USE BILLING ADJUSTMENT POLICY, Effective January 01, 2020

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

**2. Property Ownership Transfers:** All new owners of residential and commercial properties

currently connected to the public sewer system whom wish to receive an adjustment of billing for water not entering the public sewer MUST use a sub-meter per the requirements noted in the “SUB-METERED use” section.

**The revised Sewer Use Adjustment Policy** may be viewed on our website at [www.brunswicksewer.org](http://www.brunswicksewer.org). Please click on the “POLICY” tab.

### OTHER REMINDERS

When experiencing a sewer system problem, please contact the district **FIRST**. The 24-hour emergency number is **207-613-6221**. Make sure your plumber also 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.

You can skip the checks and stamps by paying your sewer bill online. This free service can be found at: [www.brunswicksewer.org/iwt.html](http://www.brunswicksewer.org/iwt.html). Or you may sign up to have your payment automatically deducted from your checking or savings account. Select the “I Want To” tab then “Set Up Direct Payment” from our website. Complete the form and mail it to us to complete the set up.

**Please like us on Facebook.**

## FUN FACTS FROM THE LOCAL SEWER GUY



Although there is archaeological evidence of toilet paper being used in ancient times, the first toilet paper was invented in 1391 by the Chinese during the Song dynasty. 2'x3' sheets of paper were made specifically for the emperor's “toilet time.”

In 1857, Joseph C. Gayetty created the first commercially packaged toilet paper. It came in loose, flat sheets.

In 1890, the Scott Paper Company started putting their paper on rolls. However, they were too embarrassed by the product that they didn't start putting their name on the brand until 1902.