# Moose Lake-Windemere Area Sanitary Sewer District

[www.mlwssd.org](http://www.mlwssd.org)

NEWSLETTER

 April 2012

Message from the Sewer District

 What a great way to start 2012 with such mild weather and warm temperatures. The MLWSSD works hard to keep your sewer system as reliable as possible; however, some events such as inclement weather can seriously affect the proper operation of our equipment. Many customers have probably noticed a large red light and green light on the control panel of their neighborhood lift station. These lights are important indicators of whether the underground pumps are operating properly. During normal operation, the red light should be off and the green light should be on. If you notice a red light is on, please page our Superintendent Keith Newman. He will return your call to find out where the problem is.

 Now for an update on current events happening within your sewer district. The District continues to explore and assess the need for sewering of the Island and Sturgeon Lake areas. Several key factors are being reviewed such as records on recently replaced systems, failing system, holding tanks, compliant and non compliant systems, water quality information and various other reports all of which help in determining the areas of need. This will continue as an ongoing process for monitoring this area on behalf of the District.

 The District is looking at the possibility of sewering Ridgewood Estates and a few homes on Konieska Road; area adjacent to the Golf Course; and the Martinson Addition. As you recall the District did look at Ridgewood Estates/Koniseka Road area a few years back but are looking at less costly alternatives and the possibility of running the sewer line into the City of Moose Lake rather than down Hwy 10. At this time, the MLWSSD is looking at options and costs and no definite decisions have been made on sewering any of the areas mentioned. Should the District decide to move forward with any of these improvements, special meetings will be held to receive input from the public.

 If you are interested in keeping up with what is happening in the Sewer District, our regular meetings are held the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the District Office.

Sincerely,

Darla Hall, Executive Director

**NOTICE TO CUSTOMERS**

**If you would like to receive your newsletter via email rather than by mail, please send your email information and full name to** **mlwssd@mchsi.com****.**

 Moose Lake-Windemere Sanitary Sewer District Contact nformation

**Chairperson, Byron Kuster**

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**Superintendent**

**Keith Newman**

Pager (1-800-236-0034) when prompted

dial access code 1911466.

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| Inside This Issue |
| 1 | Message from the District |
| `2 | Smoked, Dyed and Televised |
| 3 | Water Conservation Tips |
| 4 | Water Conservation Tips cont. |
|  | Office Hours - Mon, Tue. & Wed 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. |

**Smoked, Dyed, and Televised**

**Ways and Reasons to Fix Sewer Defects On Private Property**

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, constrain economic

growth, and result in long-term environmental damage. These problems can

be prevented by finding and fixing sewer defects on private property.

Infiltration occurs when groundwater enters the sanitary sewer system

through defects in the system. Inflow occurs when storm water/rainwater

enters the sanitary sewer system through defects and illegal connections in

the system.

**How a Sewer System Works**

Most sanitary sewer systems are constructed as a network of manholes and

pipes that flow from each building that generates sewage to a wastewater

treatment plant. Private services are pipes from the building to the sewer

main. Defects on private services include, missing cleanout caps, broken

cleanouts, broken service lines, sump pump flows and storm water flow from

downspouts, area drains, basement drains, stairwell and window well drain.

**Eliminating Private Service Line Defects**

Eliminating private service line infiltration and inflow defects can be as

simple as replacing a cleanout cap. Other defect repairs may require an entire

service lateral to be replaced and may require hiring a licensed plumber. Cost

of repairs can range from $2.00—$2000.00.

Many agencies are developing programs to eliminate private service infiltration

and inflow defects. Programs include:

►Locating the defects

►Educating the public

►Using ordinances to enforce the repair

►Smoke Testing, Dye Testing

Preventing Sewage Backups

To prevent sewage back-up into your home should a pump failure occur, MLWSSD recommends that customers consult a licensed plumber to determine whether installing a backwater valve in your individual plumbing system is appropriate. Investing in this protective device could save you countless dollars should a problem occur, especially when homeowner’s insurance policies typically exclude coverage for sewage back-ups.

►Televising

In an effort to eliminate storm water infiltration into the MLWSSD wastewater

collection system, the District will be conducting smoke testing of the wastewater

collection system. Deficiencies found during smoke testing are documented

and property owners are notified to make the necessary corrections and/or

repairs. The harmless smoke should not enter your home unless you have defective

plumbing or dried up drain traps. Smoke, dye and televising inspection activities

should not interrupt your sewer service. Any defects noted or found on private

property are the responsibility of the property owner. The property owner will be

required to make the necessary repairs to maintain compliance with federal, state

and local laws.

If you seldom use drains in your home, please pour water in the drain to fill the trap,

which will prevent smoke from entering the building. It is also recommended

that central air conditioning condensation traps be filled. This can be accomplished

by running the unit several hours prior to smoke testing. The District will attempt to

notify those homes involved prior to the testing. MLWSSD will also be looking into

homes suspected of having footing drains or sump pumps illegally connected

to the municipal sewer system.

We will continue our efforts to eliminate storm water infiltration into the MLWSSD

wastewater collection system. **Excessive storm water increases treatment cost,**

**reduces the carrying capacity of existing lines and increases operation and**

**maintenance cost, all of which are passed on to the customer.**

For additional information or questions, please call the MLWSSD

at 218-485-8276.

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| **Water Conservation Tips for Consumers** |   |
| **Bathroom Toilets:*** Toilet flushing consumes nearly half of the daily household consumption using about 5-7 gallons per flush.
* Your toilet is not a wastebasket - don't use it to flush away cigarette butts or kleenex.
* Toilet dams save about two gallons per flush.
* Most new toilets presently available on the market are engineered for low volume and use about 3 1/2 gallons per flush.
* Put a few drops of food coloring in your tank. If colored water shows in the bowl without flushing, there's a leak and repairs are needed.

**Bathing:** Bathing usually consumes the second greatest quantity of water in the home. * A shower generally uses less water than a bath.
* http://www.nacdnet.org/education/clipart/BrushingTeeth.jpgDo your showering and hair washing in one step.
* Fill the tub only 1/4 full. This is enough to cover an adult's body or float a child's toy.
* Most showers can be fitted with a flow restrictor or low-volume head to conserve water.
* Don't turn the shower on until you're ready to step in.

**Sink:*** Don't leave water running while washing your face, shaving or brushing your teeth.
* An electric razor uses less energy than it takes to heat up the water for razor shaving.

**Kitchen and Laundry** Twenty-five percent of the daily household water use occurs in the kitchen and laundry with much of this water being wasted. **Cooking:** * Remove frozen foods from freezer before you're ready to use them so you won't have to use running water to hasten thawing.
* Always use lids on pots and pans.
* Use the smallest amount of water possible in cooking to save both water and nutrients. Most frozen vegetables require about 1/2 to 1 cup of water, not half a saucepan.
* http://www.nacdnet.org/education/clipart/WaterFaucetLeak.jpgRather than letting the water run while peeling vegetables, rinse them briefly at the beginning and end of the chore.
* Don't let the faucet run for a cold drink. Keep a jug of water cooling in the refrigerator.

**Washing Dishes:*** When washing dishes by hand, use a stopper in the sink and don't rinse with running water.
* Use low-sudsing detergents - they require less rinsing.
* Adding 1/4 to 1/2 cup of vinegar to your wash water cuts grease more readily than hot water alone.
* Run your dishwater only when you have a full load, since each load uses from 12 to 17 gallons of water.
* Use the prewash, rinse-hold and scrub cycles of your dishwasher only when necessary.

**Laundry:** * If your washer has a variable load control, always adjust water levels to fit the size of the load. This saves both water and the energy needed to heat the extra hot water.
* Run your washing machine when you have a full load.
* Remember that in soft water clothes get cleaner and require less detergent and less rinse water. (cont. 4)
* http://www.nacdnet.org/education/clipart/WaterFaucetLeak.jpgWhen buying a new washing machine, look for models with water or energy-saving controls.

**All Around the House** * Check every faucet for leaks. Just a slow drip can waste 15 or 20 gallons a day.
* Use a broom, not the hose, to clean the garage, sidewalks, and driveway. Wash the car from a bucket. Use the hose only to rinse it off afterwards.
* Insulate the hot water heater, pay special attention to the insulation qualities of the shell. Avoid buying a larger tank than is necessary for your needs.

**Lawn and Yard** * Morning is the best time to water most lawns. Before 10:00 am is best of all because rising heat later on tends to steal a lot of water by evaporation. Another benefits is that grass leaves have a chance to dry off quickly. Evening or night time watering leave the grass wet and can allow lawn diseases to develop.
* A lush green lawn requires 1 to 1 1/2 inches of water a week. Water three times a week applying about 1/2 inch at a time. Keep in mind the amount of rainfall that might fall on your yard and adjust your watering schedule accordingly.
* If you let your grass grow to about 1 1/2 to 2 inches in the summer, water loss will be reduced because the blades will provide shade for the roots.
* Avoid watering when windy or in the heat of the day.
* Don't allow sprinklers to run unattended. Use a timer as a reminder when it's time to move or turn off the sprinkler.
* Lawns that are frequently aerated absorb water better.
* High nitrogen fertilizers stimulate lawn growth and increase water requirements.
* Thatch build-up in a lawn can create a rapid run-off situation. Every spring the lawn should be raked and dead grass removed.
* Sprinklers throwing large drops in a flat pattern are more effective than those with fine, high sprays.
* Forget about watering streets, walks and driveways. They don't grow a thing.
* Mulch shrubs and other plantings so the soil holds moisture longer.
* When possible, flood irrigate vegetables and flower gardens rather than using sprinklers. Irrigation allows deeper soaking with less water. Sprinklers result in high evaporation loss of water.
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