# Moose Lake-Windemere Area Sanitary Sewer District

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

NEWSLETTER

April 2017

Message from the Sewer District

The District would like to remind everyone that permits are required for connection and disconnection to the sanitary sewer system. Permits area available on our website at [www.mlwssd.org](http://www.mlwssd.org) or at the District office.

The Moose Lake Windemere Sanitary Sewer District has been busy the past year. A major rehabilitation project took place with two of our lift station. One being our main lift by Coffee Lake which is Lift Station #1 as well as Lift Station “D” located on S Sand Road. The District hired Meyer Contracting, Inc. from Maple Grove who were on site daily from the later part of October until completion of the project in December. This project is 99% complete with just some final cleanup work and seeding to be done in the spring. The project brings more efficient pumps and completes the rehab project of all of our 14 lift stations.

The Sewer District continues to address infiltration and inflow problems (groundwater entering the system) and system conditions in general and is working with our engineers to determine the findings of the last cleaning and televising performed. From this the District will come up with a plan to address areas that need repair which will include repairs to district mains and manholes. The project will include grouting and sealing several manholes and also lining of several sections of pipe.

In early June of last year, the Sewer District sent out a brief survey to property owners located directly around Island Lake and the northern end of Sturgeon Lake to gauge their interest in municipal sewer service and determine what type and age of sewer systems they currently have, check the number of holding tanks and see if perhaps some areas are in more need for municipal sewer than other areas. The District received 67% response rate from Island Lake and 62% from the northern end of Sturgeon Lake. The results were fairly inconclusive but the majority indicated not enough interest in moving forward with municipal sewer at this time. If you would like more detailed information of the results please contact the District office at 218-485-8276.

Darla Hall, Executive Director

**Note to Bill Payers : All Payments must be sent to PO Box 588, Moose Lake, MN 55767. Post Office will no longer accept mail made out to just our physical address.**

Moose Lake-Windemere Sanitary Sewer DISTRICT CONTACT information

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**Keith Newman**

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Office Hours Mon., Tues., Wed. 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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| Inside This Issue | |
| 1 | Message from the District  **NOTE TO BILL PAYERS** |
| 2 | Check Your Toilet For Leaks  Smoked, Dyed and Televised |
| 3 | Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart |
| 4 | Septic Systems: After Heavy Rains or a Flood |
|  |  |

**Smoked, Dyed, and Televised**

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

**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 or more.

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

►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. For additional information or questions, please call the MLWSSD at 218-485-8276.



**Check Your Toilet for Leaks**

Unknown water use is most often the result of a leaking toilet. Sometimes toilet leaks aren't seen or heard. It is a good idea to check for a leaking toilet at least once a year.

* 1. Remove the TANK lid.
  2. Put 5-10 drops of food coloring in the TANK. Put lid back on but don't flush it yet.
  3. After about 10 minutes, look in the BOWL. If you see color, you have a leak.

The main causes of a leak are either a "fill valve" that will not shut off or a bad "flapper".

**Fill valve problem**  
A fill valve problem will cause water to flow over the "overflow tube", either because the water level is set too high or it won't shut the water off. If you can't adjust the water level lower or can't get the fill valve to shut off, replace the fill valve. Pedestal fill valves are considered more reliable than the ball and float type.

**Bad flapper**   
If you had water run into the bowl during the dye test and the water level is not set too high, your flapper is probably leaking and it should be replaced. If your old flapper has a float on the chain, make sure your new one does too (or put the old float on the new chain). When replacing a toilet flapper, remember that it is very important to replace it with the proper flapper model for your toilet. Using a standard flapper in many 1.6 gallon toilets can make the toilet flush up to 3.5 gallons per flush (except FlushStar models).

# [http://www.clipartguide.com/_small/0512-0706-0615-2939.jpg](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCLC_09fznMgCFYN2PgodkwIMiA&url=http://www.clipartsheep.com/change-oil-car--clipart/dT1hSFIwY0RvdkwybHRZV2RsY3k1amJHbHdZWEowY0dGdVpHRXVZMjl0TDI5cGJDMWpiR2x3TFdGeWRDMDJPREEzTlRnMUxXOXNhWFpsTFc5cGJDMXBiaTFoTFdkc1lYTnpMV3BoY2kxbGNITXRPQzVxY0djfHc9MTA4NnxoPTEyMDB8dD1qcGVnfA/&psig=AFQjCNHdtzetFddvlmGJtMMgJFuQtfoi7A&ust=1443638758008346)[http://images.all-free-download.com/images/graphicthumb/oak_tree_clip_art_11598.jpg](http://www.google.com/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=0CAcQjRxqFQoTCNuS8a34nMgCFYU1Pgodr8YIvA&url=http://all-free-download.com/free-vector/black-and-white-tree-clip-art.html&psig=AFQjCNGUWKkc4_BiwrdEW8ro5uCbdgbLxA&ust=1443639918935935)

**MLWSSD Meeting Schedule**

**The regular meetings of the Moose Lake Windemere Area Sanitary Sewer District are held at 5:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month at our office located at 304 ½ Elm Ave, Moose Lake MN (basement of Downtown Dental). If you would like to be on our agenda please call the office at 218-485-8276.**



**Septic Systems: After Heavy Rains or a Flood**

If you have an individual septic system that is in an area affected by flooding this spring, there is a potential for damage to the system. However, you can take action after the flooding to minimize the damage. When floodwaters cover your septic system it should not be used. If the drainfield or ground above your septic tank floods, your individual sewage treatment system is not working.

**If your system is flooded the following steps could help your system recover:**

1. Pump the tank(s) as soon as possible after the flood recedes and prior to resuming use of the system.

2. Locate and protect the drainfield from compaction by keeping all traffic off the area.

3. Check electrical connections for damage or wear before turning electricity back on.

4. Check that the septic tank manhole cover is secure and that inspection ports have not been blocked or damaged.

5. Check the vegetation over your septic tank and drainfield and repair erosion damage.

6. Inside your home, be sure to disinfect thoroughly if sewage backed up into the house or garage.

7. If you have a drainfield that has not been flooded, but is soggy due to heavy rain, minimize water use within the home.

**What to do if portions of your system were destroyed**

Often flood waters can cause components of septic systems to be partially or completely washed away. The owner of such a system should not assume that soil or other “fill” can be added and new system components constructed.

Heavy rains can cause slides to partially or completely cover septic system components with rock, mud, or silt. These slides can affect the operational integrity of the system, especially the drainfield. Care needs to be taken for slide debris removal from the area on or around a septic system in order to protect system components, taking special care to keep vehicle and equipment traffic off the drainfield to avoid compaction.

If your drainfield is saturated or has standing water not caused by flooding or heavy rain, you may have a long-term problem. For any of the problems listed above, contact a licensed septic system professional or the local septic system permitting authority to discuss options that will meet state and local codes.

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| Moose Lake – Windemere Sanitary Sewer District  304 ½ Elm Avenue PO Box 588  Moose Lake, MN 55767 |  |  |
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