# Moose Lake-Windemere Area Sanitary Sewer District

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

NEWSLETTER

 May 2019

Message from the Sewer District

 Summer is just around the corner and with summer comes lots of lake activity from camping, barbecue’s, boating, fishing and lots and lots of extra people. The MLWSSD would like to remind folks to keep the access areas up and around our many lift stations on the sewer system open and free of vehicles, campers, trailers, etc. Our Superintendent needs to be able to gain access to those stations **day or night** in the event of any maintenance or repair issues.

 **In addition campers/rv waste is NOT allowed to be dumped into any clean out pipe on our system.** It is against our ordinance and serious fines could be imposed. The District has found flexible tubing from campers/rv waste, etc. in our lift stations as well as baby wipes and various other debris which can cause major break downs and repairs to the system. This is from the result of using clean out pipes as well as flushing items down the toilet. This can be a very costly repair to the system as well as could potentially put a HUGE damper on your weekend or holiday plans should it cause any backup issues. Let’s work together to keep the system running smoothly.

 Just a reminder that permits are required for any connection or disconnection to the sanitary sewer system. Permits are available on our website at [www.mlwssd.org](http://www.mlwssd.org) or at the District Office which is located at 304 ½ Elm Avenue, Moose Lake, MN (basement of Downtown Dental Bldg). As always, if you should have any questions regarding what is happening in the Sewer District, please do not hesitate to give us a call at 218-485-8276. Have a great summer!

 Darla Hall, Executive Director

 Moose Lake-Windemere Sanitary Sewer DISTRICT CONTACT information

**Chairperson, Byron Kuster**

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**Vice Chairperson, Cliff Koski**

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**Executive Director, Darla Hall**

MLWSSD (218) 485-8276

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**Superintendent**

**Keith Newman**

(cell) 218-380-6114

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

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**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.**

Sump Pumps

*Are you aware that sump pumps are NOT allowed to discharge into the sanitary system in accordance with the MLWSSD Ordinance and that serious fines could be imposed?*

*If you are aware of anyone currently on the District’s system that has a sump pump depositing storm water into our system, please inform them that this practice is not allowed and report the information to our office. Sump pumps depositing into the system increase the treatment fee’s we pay to the City of Moose Lake as we pay our fees on a per gallon rate. This in turn increases the cost to the customers. Please be responsible and do not connect sump pumps or footing drains to the Sewer System.*

 **CLEAN OUT’s**

After a long winter and overabundance of snow, please be sure to check the clean out pipe in your yard to make sure the caps are still on and securely fastened. This will eliminate unpolluted water from entering the sewer system.

 Thank You.

**District Line Maintenance Schedule 2019**

**MLWSSD has contracted with the company Visu-Sewer to do line maintenance during spring/early summer to the areas on the East, South and West Sides of Sand Lake. There should be no interruption in your service however we want you to be aware they will be in the area working on our lines.**

***MANHOLE COVERS***

The MLWSSD has spent money over the past few years raising and unearthing our manholes on the system. If there is a manhole cover in your yard-driveway-property do NOT cover it with dirt or place decorative items on them.

In addition you may see steel posts with white stripes on the top within the roadway easement or on your property. Many have been removed by property owners in the past.

**PLEASE** do not remove as they are indicators that there is a manhole cover near it.



*What to do if you see a red light on the control panel at your neighborhood lift station?*

*The red lights are indicators of whether the underground pumps are operating correctly. Normally the lights are green. If you notice that the red light is on please read the label on the control panel with station name and telephone number to call. We appreciate being called and can usually assess the situation and complete the repairs without any interruption of service.*

**INDIVIDUAL SEPTIC SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE INFORMATION**

## WHO HAS A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

Many residents in Moose Lake Township and Windemere Township use some form of sewage treatment method other than a municipal sewer system. This “other method” of treatment is called an Onsite (or sometimes subsurface) Sewage Treatment System (or SSTS). If designed and installed properly, an SSTS can be a cost effective and environmentally safe method of treating wastewater generated within the home.

## WHY DOES SEWAGE NEED TO BE “TREATED” ANYWAY?

Sewage contains bacteria, viruses, nutrients, some chemicals, and a small amount of heavy metals. These contaminants must be treated before they reach the groundwater, in order to prevent the spread of disease and environmental contamination. An SSTS can provide a high degree of treatment if the system is properly designed, constructed, and maintained. An SSTS treats sewage by using biological, physical, and chemical processes.

## WHAT IS A SEPTIC SYSTEM?

A standard septic system is generally made-up of two parts: a septic tank and a septic drain field (or soil treatment system). The soil treatment system usually consists of either an in-ground system (trench system) or an aboveground system (mound system). An SSTS professional can determine which type of soil treatment system is needed, simply by analyzing your local soil conditions and determining the depth to the seasonally saturated soil (water table).

## HOW DOES THE SEPTIC TANK WORK?

All wastewater containing human wastes, nutrients, dirt and other contaminants must be collected and delivered to the septic tank for primary treatment. Bacteria which occur naturally within the waste will begin breaking down the organic materials in the sewage. The wastewater remains in the tank for about 36 hours, which provides enough time for the sewage to settle into three layers. The floating scum layer, which forms near the top of the tank, consists primarily of soaps, greases and toilet paper. The sludge layer contains the heavy organic and inorganic material that settles to the bottom of the tank. The liquid layer, which forms between the scum and sludge layers, consists of water, liquids, and some suspended solids. It is this liquid layer that is allowed to exit the tank to next be treated by the soil treatment system. By settling and capturing all of the solids and preventing them from entering the soil-treatment system, your septic tank will help to extend the life of your drain field.

To help prevent unwanted materials from leaving the tank, baffles are placed over the inlet and outlet pipes. These baffles stop any floating materials from entering the soil treatment system. If either floating scum or sludge is allowed to enter the soil treatment system, the effective life of the system can be greatly reduced. This will likely lead to the occurrence of expensive repairs!

Solids can enter your soil treatment system if a large amount of water is used in a short period of time. This can occur, for example, if you wash seven loads of laundry in one day rather than washing one load each day of the week. Large quantities of water entering the tank may agitate the existing solids layer, and increase the risk of solids entering the soil treatment system. As the suspended particles are flushed into the soil treatment system by the excess water, those particles can plug pipes or soil pores and slow the rate at which the soil is able to accept wastewater for the final treatment phase. The addition of a garbage disposal in your home without also enlarging your septic tank capacity can introduce more problems for your soil treatment system. The food particles from a garbage disposal tend to be very small, and thus remain suspended longer in the liquid layer within your septic tank. This increases the likelihood that they will flow out into the soil treatment system, again causing premature failure of your soil treatment system. Adequate pumping of your septic tank will help to reduce the chances of that occurring.

## HOW OFTEN SHOULD YOU CLEAN YOUR TANK?

Your septic tank should be cleaned (maintained), by a licensed SSTS Maintainer, approximately every two to three years, with the exact frequency depending upon levels of use. The licensed maintainer that you choose will inspect your tank to determine if it needs to be pumped. If pumping is required, they will then remove all of the scum and sludge that have accumulated in your tank. The cleaning of your tank must be performed through the 24-inch tank maintenance hole rather than through one of the 4-inch inspection pipes. As a homeowner, you should make certain that this is the case. Failure to utilize the larger and more centrally located maintenance hole will result in your tank being only partially emptied. This will increase the chances of the remaining solids floating out of your tank as it begins to refill, and finding their way into your soil treatment system where they can damage and shorten the life of your drain field.

**CAUTION**

* Avoid entering your septic tank. Individuals have died from gas asphyxiation.
* Never permit heavy equipment to pass over the absorption field.
* Never smoke near septic tank openings.

Moose Lake – Windemere Sanitary Sewer District

304 ½ Elm Avenue PO Box 588

Moose Lake, MN 55767

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