

# LAKE PEWAUKEE SANITARY DISTRICT



July 2020

## LAKE

We started the Spring with a wonderful somewhat Aquatic Plant Free lake as far as shore clean up and harvesting options and the pile pick up was very light as well.

The appearance of the lake this Spring was so wonderful, and the water clarity was incredible. The District does water quality testing every Wednesday morning. As part of that testing, we check water clarity (secchi Disc), Temperature, Oxygen levels, and salinity. In the last month we had secchi disc readings of up to 25 feet in the big lake (west end) and 8 foot in the small lake (east end). The secchi disc is what is used to measure water turbidity or clarity. The clarity of Pewaukee lake has been improving greatly of the past 10 years and the Eurasian water milfoil has decrease significantly. To date the lake has one of the highest diversities of plant life in the state. While most people hate “weeds” or aquatic plants, they are what makes a lake healthy. Plants intake nutrients and release oxygen into the water. Fish, frogs, turtles and other aquatic life need oxygen to grow healthy and strong. Without the aquatic plants intaking the nutrients, we would have algae showing up to consume the nutrients which then creates a “bloom” and it turns the lake to pea green soup. We can also expect a lot of the filamentous algae which has the appearance of clouds of green “cotton candy”. These algae are considered a “good algae” although it is uncomfortable for swimming, makes it difficult to fish and is not very pleasant looking. Some algae are good for a lake. It provides food for the zooplankton and all the microorganisms. Minnows and year of the young fish, feed on the zooplankton and the bigger fish feed on the smaller fish. In essence, the algae are the start of the whole food chain and is good for a lake as long as it is not a huge bloom. We need just enough and we don’t want it to proliferate or turn into the bad blue green algae. So, to help minimize the algae, we recommend that lake residents and neighboring properties that drain to the lake to not fertilize their lawns with nutrient rich fertilizers as this can make the algae blooms increase exponentially.

The aquatic vegetation is just now starting to flourish, and our crews are on top of it. They are giving the invasive aquatic plants a good “haircut”, so we are keeping the vegetation at bay but maintaining plants to at an 18” height to help hold the lake bottom from eroding from high winds and large wave action. Keeping the plants well below the surface helps minimize the prop chop that creates all the floaters. While we are putting the crews in full force, we cannot emphasize enough how much more efficient we can remove the weeds if the lake property owners participate in the pile pick-ups on Mondays and Fridays. The Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District started this process many years ago and to date, other Lake Districts have been following our lead. This “pile pick up” is on Mondays and Fridays weather permitting. We send crews out to pick up piles of weeds that the lake homeowner’s have stacked up on the shoreline. While this does take effort from you, this effort goes farther than you think. Aquatic plants you pile up help us remove even more Eurasian milfoil fragments from the lake and prohibit their reestablishment. If your Aquatic plants are piled, we can move around the lake quicker, pick up more weeds faster and it allows us to clean more shoreline and harvest more milfoil.

If you cannot possibly do this, there are high school and college kids willing to do it for you and it is not expensive. It is no different than hiring a lawn service because you want a better lawn. Call our office for more information, as we like to work with these services and are even willing to pick up the piles they make. Our position is the more invasive Eurasian water milfoil we can remove from the lake the better off we all are.

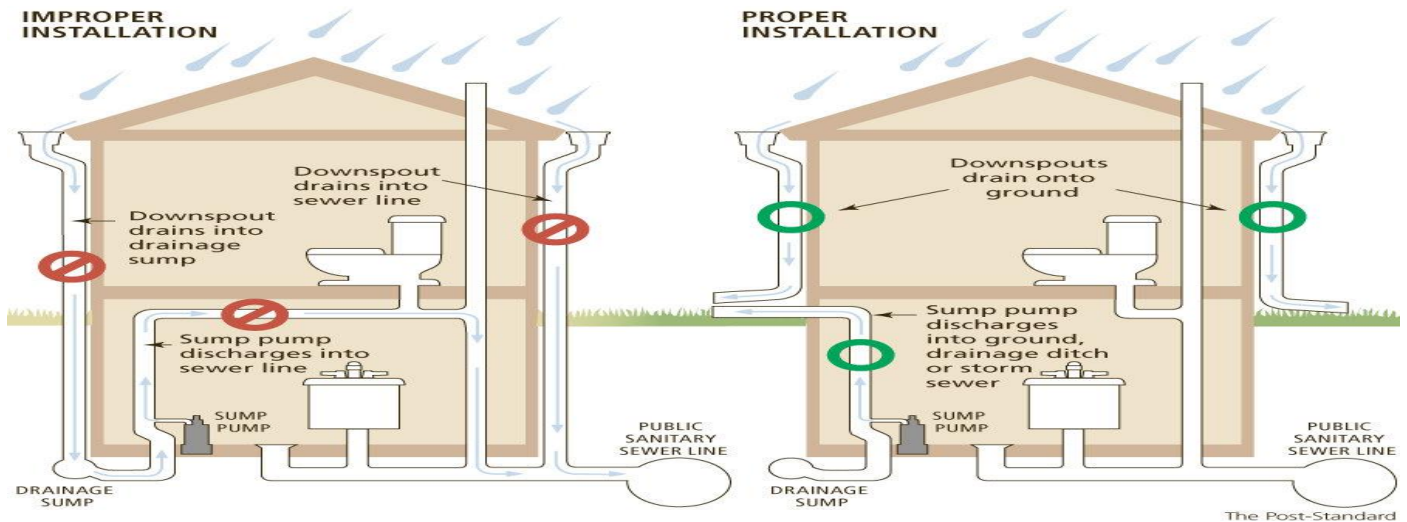
## SEWER NEWS - Sewer Pumps do not like cleaning rags and all of us “users” don’t like to pay higher user fees.

So.... if it is not something going through your body or toilet paper, do not flush it down the toilet.

At least once a year the District has the sewer system wet wells vacuumed and cleaned free of debris to assure the pumps do not get clogged. This comes out of the sewer user fee’s we all pay on a quarterly basis. This fee also must cover any overtime expenses dealing with clogged pumps, so it is pretty simple, don’t flush the rags and we don’t have to unclog pumps and we don’t have to raise the user fees accordingly.



What else makes our user fee’s go up? **Illegal sump pump connections.** Pewaukee Lake is a drainage basin lake. This means most of the homes (in fact almost all) the homes eventually drain to the lake. This can be by ditch and storm sewer, but it also can be through the ground. Many houses around the lake and even 500 feet to 1000 feet from the lake have natural springs flowing to their basement walls. This water is directed to your drain tile which flows to the sump crock. The sump crock then should discharge outside on the ground or a pipe toward the lake. IT SHOULD NOT BE CONNECTED TO THE SEWER PIPE. See improper connection on left below. If it is connected to the sewer pipe (same pipe your kitchen sink and toilet go to) you have an illegal sump pump connection. What you are doing is sending the grey water from your sump pump through the sanitary sewer system to the Brookfield wastewater treatment facility. This means everyone in the District is paying to have your wastewater treated, water that does not need to be treated. The proper connection is shown on the right below. If you think you have an issue contact the District and we will inspect your home at no cost.



If you have an issue, call us at 262-691-4485, we will help you get it fixed. No fines, no trouble. Let us just help each other so we can keep the sewer system tight and the user fees cheaper.