



HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A PROSPEROUS AND **HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

LAKE CLEAN UP SUMMARY

It was a fairly heavy year with the aquatic plants on the lake this year. Most of the aquatic plants were “uprooted” or chopped up by props from recreational boating activities. The curly leaf pond weed grew fast in spring again so there was a lot of work to do before the college help arrived.

This year we had steady harvester operators and did more cutting and picking up which in the end saved some time with the shore crews cleaning up. We removed about the same amount of plants as last year. With the larger volumes of plants being removed over the last decade, we have doubled the amount of phosphorous removed. This helps minimize algae blooms. It has been years since the lake looked like pea green soup. In fact, water clarity and quality has shown a constant trend in the positive direction. Boaters, please be aware of what your boat and props are doing to the lakebed and the aquatic plants. **Help us keep this positive trend going!**

SEWER SYSTEM UPGRADING

This is going to be a bit repetitive, but we want all our constituents to know what we must do to accommodate the growth in the Districts sewer service area. The District is in process of planning and designing for the next 50 years of sewer service to accommodate this growth. To accomplish this, we need to complete several detailed steps shown below. We are now finishing step 2 and going into step 3 below.

1. **Complete a detailed sewer system study** that indicates exactly what flow is coming in and what the future flows will be at full build out. **The existing sewer system has reached full capacity in some of our lift stations.** Having an engineering firm look at the system solidified our thoughts of what is needed and needed ASAP.

2. **Financing** options: We are investigating financing and determining what the cheapest solution to provide the required financing for the sewer upgrades. These upgrades will protect public welfare and the overall health of Pewaukee Lake for the next 50 years. Fortunately, there are WDNR Clean Water Fund Loans with cheap interest rates (2.5%+/-), bonds and State Trust funds that we are thoroughly investigating, reviewing and attempting to acquire to help us. While we are applying for these programs, unfortunately the competition from small communities is immense. Because we live in an area with larger homes and larger incomes, we fall to the bottom of the list. **Verbal comments from the WDNR look very positive for the District on this loan to date (at the time of this newsletter)!** We also raised our Sewer Wastewater Treatment and Capacity Charge. This means the developers will be paying their fair share in this upgrade.

3. Detailed planning, engineering, Plans are at 95% for the lift station and lift station support building. The force main has been installed last year to beat the County SS repaving project. Plans had to be completed and sent to the WDNR for approval to make the 2026 funding list. This year 2026 has a good pot of WDNR Funding and it was absolutely critical to get it in and approved by the WDNR to get the cheapest funding available. Verbal comments from the WDNR all sounded positive. Approval letters have arrived from the wastewater engineers approving our plans. We are patiently waiting to see the funding list, fingers crossed as this gives us the least impact to our sewer users. So, when you see the rate increase, it's as minimal as we can get.

It is important to note that if the sewer system was not upgraded, lift stations would surcharge and cause basements to back up requiring sewage to be bypass pumped into Pewaukee Lake. Can you imagine that? We don't even want to think of the nightmare that could bring. Bear with us as we take the necessary steps to avoid these potential tragedies and realize as we raise sewer rates, that it is inevitable, but it is for the public health and welfare of everyone in the lake country area.

Are you aware of the sewer system, how it functions, why we need to upgrade?

We put together a video called: **SEWER SYSTEM UPGRADE 2025**. Coming to our website in mid-January. Please review it and give us a call to discuss any questions you may have. We would be happy to explain more. You are also welcome to come into our office, and we can sit down with you and go over the whole operations.

RAGS IN THE PUMPS - One other item we have to mention in every newsletter is the issue with rags and cleaning wipes that say "flushable" but they clog our pumps. **It is a Major issue in all sewage pump stations. Remember and teach your families - If you haven't eaten it or it isn't toilet paper it does NOT belong in the toilet.** Help us keep the cost of maintenance down, it's hard enough for the District to deal with the upgrades we are looking at and trying to keep the user fee down. Adding additional maintenance that could be avoided by not flushing wipes is 100% in your hands to help control. **PS – EDUCATION IS WORKING, WE HAVE HAD LESS RAGS!! THANK YOU ALL!!**

Employment – Summer Lake Crews

Lake Pewaukee Sanitary District will be looking to hire enthusiastic people to help with the lake operations this next year. The temporary summer employees work from early May until the end of August. The shift starts at 7:00 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m. **Applications for the seasonal help will be accepted for review starting any time after January 1st, 2025.** Applicants must be at least 18 years of age.

We also have a need for some temporary help that could start earlier and work through October. Call Rita at (262) 691-4485 for more information.