

January 2020 IVSD Newsletter

Year-end Summary

It has been an eventful year for the sanitary district. We lost our head lift station operator Sel Micka to ALS in April. Sel had served the district well since he signed on in 1999. Roger Brey stepped into the position and now heads a crew consisting of Jim Merten, Troy Hamidi, Joe Olszewski, Kyn Anthony and Jim Latta. This crew is tasked with maintaining a system that was built in 1996-97 so parts are wearing out and needing to be replaced. Constant vigilance is paramount to try to catch problems as soon as possible. This is why we need your help to control what we can control. Nature has thrown us enough curves in the past few years, and this year's precipitation topped 45 inches (through November) which tests our mains, laterals, manholes and lift stations.

The upcoming year will see us televising various parts of the district so don't be surprised to see a televising company truck parked along your street or road. We last televised 10-11 years ago, so once again we will be looking for leaking mains, cracked cleanouts and laterals, decaying manholes and the like. Thanks to new technology, the company can now televise through the laterals to our homes to help explain increasing flows that might be caused by leaks and cracks. They are also capable of detecting sump pumps that are connected to the mains. In the past we have found that heavy trucks driven across lawns for dumping soil or rock or for cutting trees or for some other purpose have inadvertently cracked laterals leading from your homes to the mains in the ditches or streets. We may find this has happened so will let you know what we find and how things can be remediated. More information will be sent to you in the near future.

As always we are looking for district residents to serve as commissioners and lift station operators. In the case of the commissioners, we are all over 70 years of age and would like a few concerned residents to help us out and learn the ropes so they can help carry us into and through this next decade. Please check out our website at <https://townofshoshone.com/ivsd-news-page/> for more information. If you wish further information, feel free to contact any of our three present commissioners: Ron Harrell, Vicky Rowe or Tom Konrad.

Some things to keep in mind to help us keep our system running smoothly:

- 1 Don't throw any diapers, Depends, wipes, rags, paper towels or the like down the drains, toilet
- 2 Use the strainers in your kitchen sink to catch food items then put them in the trash
- 3 If you lose power, don't flush your toilets until the power comes back on
- 4 People who have generators, please abide by (e) as well, especially around Lift Station 3 which is located at I Ah May Tah and Indian Point Rd.
- 5 Don't allow your sump pump to empty into the sewer main. This is ground water that should not go through the system as it doesn't need to be treated by the City and raises the costs to all of us to have it processed. Send your sump pump water to the lake, the channels or the ditches.
- 6 Don't send hair down the system (either pet or human). This has led to costly repairs in the past.
- 7 Keep fish line out of the system.

Keep flushable wipes out of the Island View Sanitary District system

The following is a story that ran on WBAY TV and relates directly to the IVSD.

By Jeff Alexander | Posted: Mon 6:04 PM, Dec 10, 2018

CHILTON, Wis. (WBAY) - The City of Chilton is urging residents to stop flushing "flushable" wipes. Sewer officials say it's creating an issue costing taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars a year. "When I first got here, we really didn't have any issues, but within the last three or four years it's gotten a lot worse," Tim Keuler, lead operator of the Chilton wastewater treatment plant, tells us.

It's not a pretty sight, but a bucket of blackened, pulpy chunks is what Keuler collected in a screen in just two hours at the Chilton wastewater treatment plant -- chunks of flushable wipes. "This plant runs 24/7, so you can imagine how many are in there after a full day," he remarks.

Monday morning, Keuler demonstrated the difference between toilet paper and so-called flushable wipes once they're in water for three hours. "The toilet paper just breaks apart and there's just pieces so they don't ball up, but the wipes ball up and that's what causes the problem." Keuler says the wipes just don't break down. As a result, they clog up lifting stations around the community, damaging pumps.

Along with triggering a sewer backup, it's become an expensive problem over the past three years. "Almost \$68,000 in pump replacement, pulling pumps, repairs, and that's just our mechanical contractors cost. That does not include us going out at 2 o'clock or 3 o'clock in the morning on overtime," Keuler says. "This is really costing taxpayers a lot of money in the city of Chilton."

In an effort to raise awareness and educate the community, city employees have already met with the hospital, nursing homes and assisted-living facilities, and residents are getting notices.

"The message is: The only thing that goes down the toilet is toilet paper," Keuler says. "We're not telling people not to use these things, but just dispose of them properly; put them in the garbage." And according to Keuler, Chilton isn't the only community dealing with a flushable wipe problem. "Almost everybody you talk to has got issues with this right now."

Proper Disposal of Bacon/Cooking Grease from the Wall Street Journal, August 9 p. A8

No matter what, first let the grease cool

Pour it into a container and let it harden; re-use for cooking or throw in the trash

Pour into a foil-lined bowl, let it harden; fold foil around the fat and throw in the trash

Soak up smaller quantities with paper towels; throw in the trash

Mix with bird seed and let it harden; put it in a bird feeder

IVSD commissioner's side note: Don't pour grease down the drain or the toilet. In the IVSD system, the grease eventually finds its way to our lift stations and adheres to the floats which determine when the pumps turn on and off. When the grease accumulation gets too much, the pumps will not turn on and off properly and this can lead to a sewer backup. We also have to spend big bucks cleaning the floats several times each year.