

LAKE WASHINGTON SANITARY DISTRICT (LWSD)
PO BOX 3188
MANKATO, MN 56002-3188
WWW.LWSDMN.ORG

JANUARY 2017

Special points of interest:

- Shane Youell hired for maintenance/ service/billing
- Election Results
- Electronic bill request
- Meetings held 2nd & 4th Monday

In The News



The LWSD Board hired Shane Youell in June, 2016 to perform our system maintenance, monitoring and repairs. Shane and his wife grew up in the Mankato area and he comes to our District with 16+ years of plumbing experience and knowledge. Shane's family includes his wife who teaches at West High School and 3 daughters who keep him busy.

Shane's duties include overall maintenance along with preventative and reactionary responses to District needs. Please contact him at 507-995-7806 or MTECH@LWSDMN.org with maintenance, usage and billing concerns. Welcome Shane!

Billing Issues

Your bill is prepared and mailed each month after the cut off date of the 20th. Please direct questions regarding your bill, including usage and/or cost to Shane.

In an effort to cut costs to our billing processes (printing, postage, etc.), please send an email to MTECH@LWSDMN.org requesting that your sewer bill be sent electronically. You will be provided with a clear and easy to read copy of your bill each month via email.

As a separate cost saving issue, if you are interested in having your monthly bill deducted from your checking or savings account, please contact Jim Deike at lwsd@hickorytech.net or 507-345-3354.

Cost Savings Realized

The LWSD Board has been able to reduce overall expenses, but yet provide a better quality service to constituent's. From June 1 to Dec 31st we have realized approximately \$74,000 in savings. In looking forward to 2017, we are looking at \$130,000-\$150,000 in savings using 2013-2015 base numbers as comparison. Along with these savings, we have the unique situation—**no rate increase in 2017!** These savings are the result of improved purchasing positions along with reducing overhead, while maintaining a quality service product.

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Shane Youell, Maintenance, Repairs and Billing
MTECH@LWSDMN.org
507-995-7806

Sanitary District Meetings

All board meetings are open to the public and are held on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month. Meetings are at 7:00 PM at the Mankato Municipal Airport Conference Room, 3030 Airport Road, Mankato, MN 56001. Minutes of each meeting are posted to the website at www.LWSDMN.org

Sentry Advisor Software

LWSD currently utilizes Sentry Advisor software on the Madison/Ballantyne systems to view individual flowage of our property owners, run reports and identify potential problems or concerns.

This software is literally our District eyes and ears when evaluating our sewer system. Shane continuously reviews and monitors flows, which allows a process to provide problem solving and preventative maintenance. The software has an alert notification for each individual station or property. This alert could be caused by a malfunctioning water softener, iron filter, broken pipes, stuck toilet or failed pump. Through our use of this software, safeguard's are in place to recognize high flow, potential emergencies and/or abnormal activities in your home. The system will send an alert in real time to Shane so that he can react in a timely manner to each issue.

The LWSD Board is looking at possibly implementing this system into the Washington/George area in the future.

What Do I Do If My Alarm Sounds?

Property owners have inquired as to what they should do if their alarm sounds on their sewer system:

- Turn off the sound of the alarm by pressing the silence button that is located underneath the alarm panel.
- LIMIT WATER USAGE
- Contact Shane at 507-995-7806 and provide your name, address and telephone number. (This contact information is also displayed on the control box).

Common Sewer Problems Found

A list of items that should NOT be introduced into the sewer system is found on our web site at www.LWSDMN.org. Property owner's are encouraged to review this list, as you may be responsible for costs of repair due to negligence or abuse. **Most recently, kitchen grease and flushable wipes have caused pump failures to which the homeowner may be responsible.**

Communication

As our Board members attend various meetings and speak with property owners, it has become apparent that a need for improved and frequent communication is needed. If you have a question or need clarification, please immediately contact a board member and/or attend a meeting. It has become a priority of our Sanitary District to better inform all property owners as to topics that we receive. Please regularly visit our web site www.LWSDMN.org, read FAQ along with our minutes to familiarize yourself with our ongoing processes.

Vacation

If you go on vacation for a length of time, flush the system before you go away. Run clean water into the unit until the pump activates. Turn off the water and allow the grinder pump to run until it shuts off automatically.

Selling/Purchasing/Remodeling & Building Properties

Contact Jim Deike at 507-345-3354 or Shane at 507-995-7806

Election Results

LWSD Board members serve for 3 year terms. The joint Township Boards (Kasota, Jamestown, Washington, LeRay) met in December and re-elected Bob Schmillen and Randy Westman to serve new 3 year terms.

FYI—In 2016 LWSD sent 26.9 million gallons of wastewater to the treatment plant in Mankato