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THE MORTGAGE IS PAID!

As many of you may be aware, interest rates on savings and CD's have dropped to disappointing lows. This prompted your Commissioners to ask our Accountant to again review the possibility of paying down some of our debt. The District had previously paid down a portion of the debt when interest rates first started to drop. After review it was determined that we could pay the entire remaining balance by using some of our reserved Sewer Capital Funds. After assurances that the remaining balance would be sufficient to cover any planned or emergency capital projects, a final payment was made of over \$790,000. This resulted in interest savings in the next three years of over \$80,000. The Capital Fund will be reimbursed by the tax levy over the next several years without any major increase.

WHAT IS I AND I?

You may have seen newspaper articles that talk about increased flows during storm events in the surrounding area. One of the major contributors to increased flows is illegal sump pumps connected to the sewer. The other is known as **I and I** and since this is a recurring problem, here is a reprint of an explanation from several years ago.

The quarterly sewer user charge that this newsletter arrives with is used to pay all operations and maintenance costs. A major component of those costs is sewage treatment charges at Brookfield that we pay based on a per thousand gallon rate. There are two things that can drive up that cost of treatment. They are known collectively as **I and I**. The first I stands for **inflow**. This is primarily stormwater that enters the system through manholes at the covers or frames. It may also enter from broken off cleanout pipes. This flow generally comes and goes with the rainfall. The best way to combat inflow is to maintain the manholes. For that reason we spend a great deal of time inspecting and repairing them.

The second I stands for **infiltration**. This is groundwater that enters the system below grade through cracked or broken pipes in the mainline sewer or private laterals. Since it is flowing in and mixing with the sewage flow, it is more difficult to determine where it is coming from. We need to become sewer detectives. If we have unusually high flows in one area of the system, we begin by trying to isolate the main line it is coming from. From there we can continue to narrow the area down until we know between which two manholes the suspected leak is located.

This process may take several days of opening manholes and watching the flows. This brings us to those guys out in the street with the orange flashing lights at 2 in the morning. Since our residential flows drop off between 1:00 and 5:00 AM, this is the best time to look for inflow since it never stops running. Once we have isolated the area we will bring in our camera and pinpoint the exact location so that a repair can be made. Most repairs today are made using a camera and equipment inside the pipe so that we do not have to dig things up.

Is it worth it? One small leak of three gallons per minute running for 24 hours a day adds the same amount of flow as 15 average homes! The cost of that flow has to be paid for by all the residents of the District. If left unchecked, infiltration can end up costing a third or more of your quarterly user charge.

For that reason we will continue to track down and repair these problems

AN IMPORTANT MEETING

Anyone who receives this news letter is in the Pewaukee Lake watershed. But since we all know that water runs downhill, did you also know that you are part of the Pewaukee River watershed as well? You are, and what actions you take to protect water quality on your property not only benefits the lake but the river as well.

The Pewaukee River Partnership is a local citizens group that has been involved the past several years to monitor and work to improve water quality throughout the Watershed. Last year the Partnership, combined with Waukesha County and the South East Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, applied for and received a grant to develop a Pewaukee River Watershed Protection Plan. This plan will provide a comprehensive overview of the current natural resources quality and outline long term projects and goals to maintain or improve the resource base.

To get things started an Informational Meeting has been scheduled for April 7, 2011 between 6:30 and 8:30 PM, at the Pewaukee Public Library, 210 Main Street in the Village. The purpose of this meeting is to get community input on their concerns, as well as their help in setting the scope of the plan. Tom Slawski of the Planning Commission will provide an overview of the natural resource inventory that has been done to date. He will also discuss the potential for a work group that will assist in developing relevant plan goals and objectives.

If you are concerned about the natural resources and the water quality in our watershed this meeting is for you.

NATIVE PLANT SALE

The third annual native plant sale, sponsored by the District and the Pewaukee River Partnership, will take place Saturday, May 14, 9AM to 2PM. It will be located across from the beach in the village of Pewaukee, behind the Old Main Street shops. These are the plants we want to see around the lake. They are ideal for the perennial garden, shoreline buffer or rain garden. Over 30 species are available. A complete plant list may be viewed on the District web site at lakepewaukeesd.org. All plants will be \$2.25 each with a discount given for purchases of over twenty plants. All proceeds will be used to promote education and restoration projects within the watershed. Thanks to Siepmann Realty for allowing us to use their parking lot.

LAKE OPERATIONS

If the ice ever leaves the lake this year, we will start to put the equipment in the water. We plan to have transports and shore units in by the first of May. At that time if the weather permits we will start our Monday and Friday pile pickup with two part time employees. This has become a very well used service with the number of residents stacking weeds increasing every year. We would like to thank all those that participate since this makes our regular shore cleanup more efficient.

Full operations with both harvesting and regular shore cleanup will begin when our students arrive around the third week in May. For more information on the operation or tips on how to maintain your pier area, go to our web site or e-mail us at lpsd@wi.rr.com.

WHAT ARE THOSE GUYS DOING OUT THERE AT TWO IN THE MORNING?

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