



# Algoma Sanitary District #1

## Fall 2007 Newsletter

### **Water Utility Update**

Now that the Town of Algoma has a large municipal water system, we are actively maintaining the system for long term operation. The most notable preservation task we are doing is painting the hydrants with a hardened epoxy polyurethane enamel to prevent rust deterioration

on the fire hydrants exposed to our seasonally changing weather.

Our municipal water system has grown significantly over the last few years. This year we have averaged 7 connections per month with a total of 670 residents using the municipal water system.

### **Water Quality**

As we report annually in our Consumer Confidence Report, we would like to reassure residents that all of our tests have come back safe. This includes the samples of our raw groundwater prior to our water treatment purification processes that are on line operating 100% of the time and

designed to remove iron and any possible trace of arsenic.

It is also notable to report to you that our raw and final water analysis for arsenic continues to show no trace.

### **Water Service Valves**

If you have municipal water available to your property, there is a service valve at your property line that turns the water on/off to your home. This service valve is in the location the property owner indicated when the system was installed and is approximately 33' in from the center of the road.

Your service valve should be flush with the ground or as close to it as possible. If the service valve on your property needs to be lowered or raised, please call and one of our operators will adjust the valve for you.

### **Automatic Water Bill Payments**

We want to thank our water users who chose the ACH direct debit payment for water bills. This is an electronic payment alternative to paper checks. The District has completed the first collection of 113 payments by this method without a single problem. Again thank you as this reduces

our processing time for receivables which in turn will help us maintain our low water rates. This also saves you postage, travel time, and late fees.

If you are interested in beginning this option, please give us a call and we would be happy to send you an authorization agreement.

### **Water Rates**

The Sanitary District's water rates are set and implemented by the regulatory body named Public Service Commission (PSC). The PSC has requested that the District review our water rates with a formal case study in 2008. The existing water rates have stayed the same during the past 4 years.

These prior years will stand as the background information for the rate study. This is one reason why it was important to begin the direct debit payment program as well as other cost saving programs that the District has developed within the previous years. The District is striving to maintain our water rates as low as possible for our valued customers.

## Increased Water Usage

The Sanitary District scans water bills, prior to mailing out, for higher/lower than usual readings and we discovered that most often a higher bill is the result of increased water usage for such things as:

- watering flowerbeds and lawns
- establishing a new lawn
- using a new sprinkler system
- friends or relatives stayed at your home
- extra laundry before or after a vacation

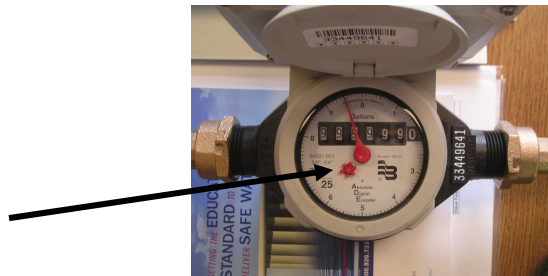
When watering flower beds, you can consume 30 gallons per minute.



## Checking for a Possible Water Leak

If you receive an unusually higher water bill, and have not increased your water usage, you could possibly have a water leak. Following is an illustration of how to check for a leak:

- Make sure all fixtures are shut off; then lift the lid on your meter.
- If the small star shaped red dial on the meter head, as pictured below, is spinning, chances are you could have a leak somewhere.
  - Check for running toilets, leaky faucets and fixtures, sprinkler systems, washing machines, and dishwashers.



Results of potential leaks:



- a 1/32" leak wastes 221 gallons in 24 hours
  - a 1/16" leak wastes 811 gallons in 24 hours
  - a 1/8" leak wastes 3,244 gallons in 24 hours
- The smallest of these leaks could add over \$53.70 to your quarterly water bill.
- A 1/8" leak could add over \$8.76 a day or over \$788.00 to your quarterly water bill.
- A faulty toilet valve or an improperly seated tank/bulb closure could equal a 1/8" leak.

## Sanitary Utility Update

This summer, the District continued its project to raise manholes flush with the asphalt road. This project will help reduce response time in case of an emergency.

The District also continued with its 5 year goal to clean and televise all sewer mains. We completed over 28,000 feet of sewer main this fall. We identified leaks and repaired them without digging up roads. These repaired leaks account for eliminating 21,000 gallons of clear water each day. These repairs will have a beneficial effect on the sewer treatment charges we receive from the City of Oshkosh.

As a reminder to you, your Sanitary District owns 10.4% (for a total capacity of 2,080,000

gallons a day) of the wastewater treatment plant located on Campbell Road in Oshkosh. For the month of October, our average discharge was 700,000 gallons a day.

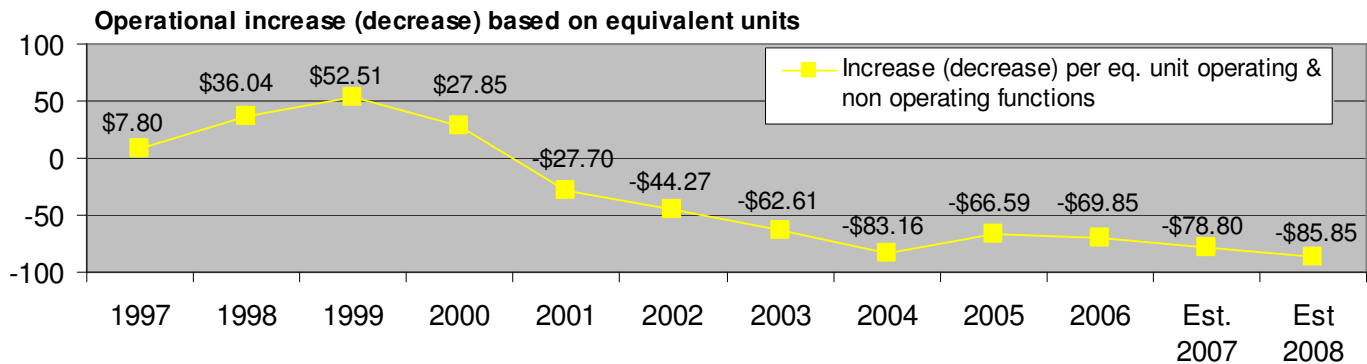
The District would like to ask for your help in preventing sanitary backups by reminding you not to flush disposable cleaning paper products into the sewer system as these can get caught in your laterals and plug the District's sewage pumps. These cloth-type wipes and dusters should be placed in your refuse container.

Another way to cut costs is to verify that your sump pump is not discharging storm water into the sewer system.

## Sanitary User Fee

As the District has mentioned in earlier flyers, the Commissioners were going to review the annual sanitary user fee that has been \$180.00 since 1998. Due to the fact, as the graph below depicts, the user fee has not covered the entire operational expense since 2000, the Commissioners chose to raise the

rate to \$250.00 based on inflationary (parameters). This fee will still be below the operational expenses, but the District will use other revenue sources to balance the annual budget. The current proposal for user fee determination is to adjust and review the sanitary user fee on an annual basis.



## Proposed Infrastructure Project

Due to the growth of the District's sewer and water utility, the existing administrative facility is no longer able to house our staff, equipment and files.

The District is in the process of planning a water and sewer utility extension to a proposed drinking water treatment facility and administrative complex with garage space. The new facility is proposed to be located just south of Witzel Avenue and west of Horseshoe Road. The proposed expansion project is to begin in 2008.

Over the past few years we have been working with the Fire Department to rent floor space for our

equipment and would like to publicly thank the Fire Department for accommodating us during this expansion period. This extra space was creatively made available by their staff as their building was already maximized for their own existing equipment.

The District has been contacting local residents and neighbors about utility services and to begin constructively working on site plans that will fit into the existing lands and the future expansion of the Town of Algoma. We, as the District and a new neighbor, look forward to this process and becoming an asset in the new location.

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## **2007 Fall Newsletter**

Welcome to the wonderful fall weather in Wisconsin. The Sanitary District has been busy throughout the summer with both water and sewer

projects. Read inside to find out more about your Sanitary District.

### **Sanitary Intergovernmental Update**

One of the more important items to update you with is our intergovernmental wastewater treatment agreement with the City of Oshkosh.

Your Sanitary District had a 30 year agreement with the City of Oshkosh that was to expire in December, 2007. District staff proactively worked

with the City of Oshkosh Council and their attorney to have the agreement renewed for the 10 year provision allowed in the original contract.

This extension allows the District to continue with the same agreement into the future.

All of us at the Sanitary District wish you and your family all the best this Holiday Season.