



# Algoma Sanitary District #1

## December, 2005 Newsletter

### Overview of Construction of 2005

The District has been busy with construction and routine maintenance during the summer of 2005 for both the Water and Sanitary Utilities. This summer, we installed 10 miles of water main, 81 Fire Hydrants, and 536 water service laterals for Phase II of the Municipal Water System. The District cleaned

10,000 feet of sewer mains this summer. The District is constantly striving to provide safe drinking water and sewer services to the residents we serve and at the lowest cost and highest quality in the Fox Valley.

### Water Update

We are pleased that we have 334 residential and 3 Public authorities who have chosen to use the Municipal Water System. To date, we have 107 of these homes abandoning their private wells and 49 homes have permitted their wells. The District currently pumps 115,000 gallons of water per

day. Many of the new users have shared their delight with the new water system with thank you notes to our staff. They have commented positively on the great taste and high pressure of the Municipal Water System. Staff expresses its appreciation for the thanks residents have sent to the office.

### Sanitary Update

The District raised 50 sanitary manholes this summer to help reduce response times in case of emergencies. We are pleased to say the District's sewer system is an efficient system and we have implemented a strategy to clean 20% of the sewers every year and to clean all the sewer mains over a 5-year period. With this cleaning process also comes

televising of the inside of the sewer mains and repairs to any leaks that are discovered. **We remind you not to flush plastics or disposable cleaning paper products as these can get caught in your laterals or sewage pumps.** In order to maintain lower user fees for the entire District, please verify that your sump pump is not discharging into the sewer system.

### Phase II Municipal Water System is complete and ready

The District would like to thank all residents for your patience, understanding, and cooperation during the construction season for any delays and inconvenience this created. Phase II of the water main construction is now complete and available for all homes along this route to hook up to the Municipal Water System.

Even though the water main for Phase II is complete, there are areas that will still need some restoration. The Sanitary District will have the contractors back in early

spring, when the weather is acceptable, to reseed and restore settled areas. This restoration will include but not be limited to filling around hydrants and service valves, repaving settled driveways, and cleaning culverts. The contractors for this project are required to warranty their work for one year. This will allow the District engineer to develop a final punch list in the late spring after restoration is complete for the contractor to complete any additional restoration required.

### Well #2 Water Treatment Facility

Well #2 facility is located at 1505 Addie Parkway. The District is in the final stages of our second water treatment facility going on line and being ready for use. This facility is capable of treating 500 gpm through a filtration unit. This treatment facility removes all traces of iron and will add fluoride to the water to bring the water up to the dental hygienists recommended fluoride level of between 1.0 ppm and 1.4 ppm (parts per million).

The District must follow a strict water-sampling plan required by the Department of Natural Resources. We have tested Well #2 for the required 127 parameters and all tests show no trace or are well below the maximum contaminant

levels set by the Department of Natural Resources. We have sampled specifically for arsenic in dozens of samples and all have had no trace of arsenic in raw water or treated water. This treatment facility was designed and built to remove iron, arsenic, and radionuclides if any of these contaminants were ever to develop in the raw water. The District's water operators test the water every single day, and this includes all holidays, which allows us to provide you with the best and safest drinking water to your home 24 hours a day 365 days a year.

Please watch for information about the open house of Well #2 being planned for spring of 2006 via the cable channel or the District's new website.

## Water Hardness

The District's water results for hardness show an average of 17 grains per gallon. Most homes hooking up to the Municipal Water System have kept their water softener. The District recommends that you keep the softener. We do recommend not softening the drinking water tap in order to

have good water quality and taste. When you soften your water, you actually remove the calcium and may increase the water by 2 parts sodium for every 1 part calcium removed. If you are on a low sodium diet you should watch for softened water.

## Well Abandonment or Well Permit

Once you choose to use the Municipal Water System and are actually hooked up to the water, you have one more decision, per the District's Ordinance, to make in regards to your existing private well. You must choose to either keep

your well by obtaining a permit or abandon your well. These options are discussed in detail in the following two sections for Well Operation Permit or Well Abandonment Procedure.

## Well Operation Permit

After you start using the Municipal Water System, if you decide to keep your well, you must obtain a well operation permit from the District within the first two months of using the Municipal Water System. Requirements for a well operation permit are:

- You are required to have two safe bacteriological samples taken **at least 14 days apart** within 2 months of permitting. The permit costs \$40.00. The permit is good for 5 years and at that time will need to be renewed.
- Your well and pump installation meet or are upgraded to meet the requirements of Chapter NR 812, Wis. Adm. Code.
- There shall be no cross-connections specifically between the residential well pump installation and the Municipal Water System. Your plumber must isolate the two water systems. Your existing well water may be used for outside hose bibs, toilets, and/or other fixtures as long as it is separated from the Municipal Water System.

If you fail the bacteriological tests and the well is not able to test safe in repeat samples, the District's Ordinance requires you to abandon your well within 3 months of the first failed sample.

## Well Abandonment Procedure

If you choose to abandon your well, the following applies: All wells shall be abandoned according to the procedures and methods of Chapter NR 812 Wis. Adm. Code. A copy of the abandonment report form, supplied by the

Department of Natural Resources, shall be completed and submitted by the well owner to the Sanitary District and the Department of Natural Resources within ten days of the completion of the well abandonment.

## Well Abandonment Credit for Phase II Parcels

If you are in Phase II of the Municipal Water System, the District is offering an \$800.00 credit until **November 5, 2006**. After the District receives your well abandonment report form as discussed in the above section, the District will do one of the following options:

1. If your assessment is paid in full, the District will issue you a check for \$800.00.
2. If you are paying your assessment over the 20 year plan, the District will credit your assessment \$800.00.

## Fire Hydrants

If you have a fire hydrant in your front yard, please help the Sanitary District and Fire Department keep these clear of snow during the winter months so they are easily assessable for the Fire Department's use. We thank you for your help with this.

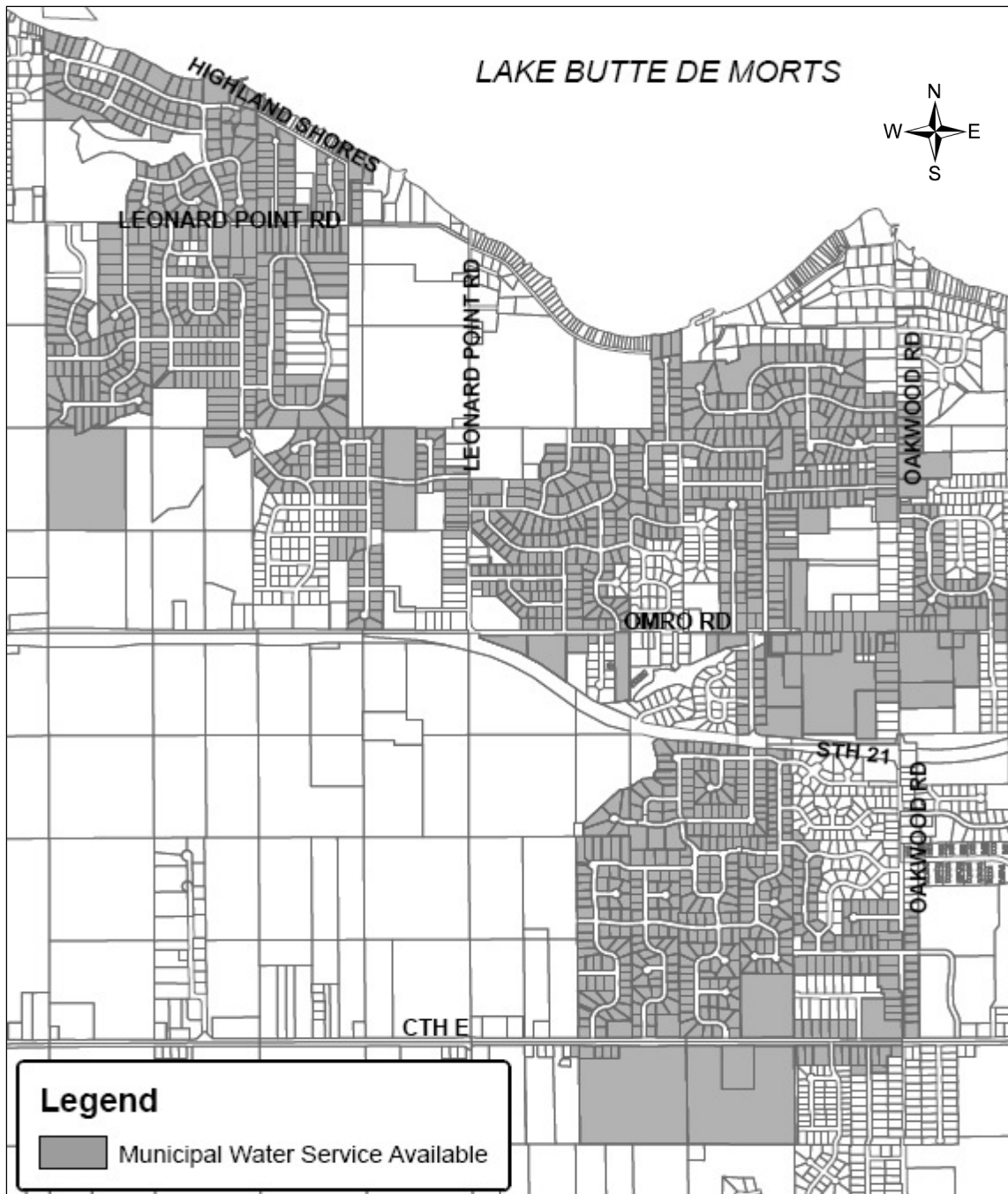
The District is very proud of the fire hydrants and the service they provide to the Town of Algoma. The District would like to commend the outstanding Volunteer Fire Department for their commitment in supplying emergency and rescue services to our Town.

It was already shown to be helpful to have fire hydrants as our Fire Department used one recently to fill their trucks while fighting a fire 3,000 feet from the fire hydrant. The hydrants have saved time and helped contain what could have been a much larger fire problem to the homeowner and surrounding neighbors' homes. The Fire Department can fill several trucks at the same time now due to the addition of hydrants and save time, as they will not need to run back to the Fire Department to fill their trucks by a slower method.

## Oakwood Road North of Witzel and South of Hwy 21

The Town has received a grant for \$876,644 to help cover the cost to repave, widen, and install storm sewers on Oakwood Road. This includes the location between Highway 21 and Witzel. The road will be the same as immediately South of Witzel. This is to be

completed by 2007-2008. The District is planning on installing a water main in this area prior to road construction. This water main construction is planned to be completed in 2006.



### Voluntary Water System – How to hook up

The steps necessary to hook up to the Municipal Water System, when/if you choose to, after the service valve is installed to your property line are as follows:

- Hire a contractor for installing a pipe from the service valve to your house and a plumber to install the water meter. **The District wants to stress to you to be sure your contractor installs the correct size service pipe for you.** The size of this pipe partly depends on the number of plumbing fixtures in your house.
- The District requires your plumber to supply water calculations for your house. The connection permit is \$40.00. The District requires your plumber to pick up your water meter.
- Your plumber will be responsible to verify no cross connections exist between your residential well and the Municipal Water System.
- The District requires 24 hour notice to inspect both the exterior hookup and the interior connection. After inspection, the District will turn on the water service valve.
- The water meters are remotely read and this type of a meter requires nothing to be attached to the outside of your house. The Water Operators only need to drive past your house to read the meter. The average water bill for a household of 3 people is estimated at \$82.25 per quarter or 3 months of use.

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&

12:30 to 4:30 p.m.

All of us at the Sanitary District wish you and your family all the best for the New Year.

### **District Reduces Water Rates**

The District's vision is to be the lowest cost provider of Municipal sewer and water services in the Fox Valley area. Such a statement requires us to always search for ways to maintain our low rates. To achieve this we use two methods, one being cost savings and another new revenue sources.

Water users will see a lower Fire Protection Fee on your water bill. The District is happy to announce we went to the Public Service Commission (PSC) to request a water rate reduction. The quarterly fire protection water rate has been reduced effective October 5, 2005. The rate has dropped from \$21.75 to \$9.35 per quarter.

This was made possible by the actions of the Town of Algoma Board as they have more evenly spread the cost of fire protection services through the entire Town of Algoma. By spreading the cost of maintaining and installing fire hydrants throughout the entire Town this allows the water user to not pay

the majority of fire protection costs. The Fire Department will and has used the fire hydrants to fight fires at parcels that are not on the Municipal Water System or in the immediate vicinity of a fire hydrant.

In efforts to maintain low water rates, we are also able to announce we have found a new revenue source by leasing a portion of the water tower to Northern Telephone & Data (NTD). NTD specializes in providing local homes and businesses with phone and broadband wireless internet services. After installation of equipment on the water tower is complete, this will give residents an alternate solution to your current phone and internet services. Please watch for their flyers or advertisements. We feel they are a good match with the District, as both entities have the mission to maintain the highest level of customer service and satisfaction.

### **Phase III**

The District is now planning a Phase III. The District is using specific requests from residents to install water in areas that previously had high levels of willingness to participate in the Municipal Water System. The District will be sending a mailing January 9 to all parcel property owners that are proposed to be

included in Phase III. We will have a date in this mailing for an informational meeting with your local neighbors. We look forward to these meetings to supply you with information and be personally available after a power point presentation to answer your questions.