



PLEASANT SPRINGS SANITARY DISTRICT

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January 2024 Newsletter

What You Shouldn't Flush or Pour Down The Drain!

Our staff has worked hard to maintain the system and respond timely to emergencies during the past year with the majority of our after-hour alarm calls being power outages! We ask all residents of the District to please only flush **human waste and toilet paper** down your toilet. Our technicians **continue** to find wipes, rags, tampons, and tampon applicators in the sanitary lift pumps. In fact, in 2023 we spent \$9,000 cleaning Lift Stations and Grinder Pump Stations finding many of the items listed below in the sewer system. All these items clog and damage the pumps and increase costs for the District. Products labeled **flushable** and **biodegradable** need to go in your trash—not your toilet. Also, if you use a cleaning service, please inform them not to flush their cleaning supplies down the toilet. Listed below are a few of the products that damage the sanitary District pumps and should not be flushed down the toilet:



Flushable wipes and rags found in LS6 Pump.



- Rags or Cloths—Socks
- Personal wipes (marked flushable)
- Sanitary Napkins/Tampons and their applicators
- Sand/gravel-Aquarium stone
- Glass
- Coffee Grounds

- Kitty Litter
- Disposable Diapers
- Condoms
- Batteries
- Metal
- Grease



It is illegal to dispose of paint, motor oil, fuels, medicine, drugs, or other toxic materials in your toilets or drains. The Dane County Clean Sweep Program provides information for disposal of toxic refuse. Visit their website www.danecountycleansweep.com or call (608)838-3212.

2023 Maintenance Projects

In 2023, staff continued with a maintenance project in each of the grinder pump stations. Old, brittle parts, are being replaced with stainless steel parts. The project is now 95% complete. Also, three grinder pump station pump conversions were completed. Thank you to our residents for cooperating with our staff when the upgrades were being completed. Staff also installed four new lift station pumps, replacing original pumps from 1991. As part of the 2024 budget, we approved using funds from our replacement account to install two generators, one at Lift Station 4, and one at Lift Station 7. In December 2023, the generator to serve Lift Station 4 was installed. Lift Station 7's generator is on order—expected to arrive in 18 months. The District office also had electrical hookups installed to run a portable generator at the administration building to keep the SCADA system up and running so our staff knows where to move the portable generator to during power outages. The installation of automatic standby generators will provide protection against service interruptions and potential backups due to power outages caused by more frequent and severe storms.



Lift Station 4 Generator

Welcome Commissioner Richard Halberg



From February-August, 2023, the District was fortunate enough to have past Commissioner, Susan Luellwitz, step in to fulfill Commissioner duties until we welcomed Richard Halberg in September. Thank you Susan!

Richard brings many management skills and a willingness to serve his community to the Commission, and we are fortunate to have him!

Commissioners

John Barry, Scott Haumersen, Richard Halberg
David Pfeiffer, Appointed Treasurer

Office Hours

Mondays 1:00-4:00 p.m.
Tuesdays 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Thursdays 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Staff

Ken Anderson, Mark Klein, Brian Shottliff, Cindy Lehr

Service Technicians are on duty Monday-Friday 7:00 a.m.-noon and 12:30-3:30 p.m.

The Commission holds their regular monthly meeting the second Tuesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Public comments/concerns are always welcome. Agendas are posted at the PSSD administration office and on the District's website at www.pssd-wi.org.

Easements

When the sewer system was installed, many homeowners signed an easement for their property where District infrastructure exists. The purpose of the easement is for our staff to be able to access pipes or grinder pump stations should repairs and/or replacement be necessary. As property is sold, Cindy sends a copy of the recorded easement to new homeowners if an easement was recorded on the property. A priority in 2023 was for our staff to evaluate if there are any encroachments on these easements. Soon, the District will be reviewing the encroachments and you will be contacted if it applies to you. Homeowners will be asked to sign a document noting the encroachment and it will be recorded with the register of deeds. The document will also note that if the District's infrastructure needs repair/replacement in the future, the homeowner will bear all costs to remove the encroachment and the District will not be responsible to replace anything other than the ground to suitable grade.

Backflow Preventor

We are passing on a recommendation from our district engineer. All homeowners should have a backflow preventor installed to protect yourself from a sewer backup from the sewer main. Please check with your plumber if you are not sure if your property has a backflow preventor or not. You are responsible for the lateral from your home to where it connects to the sewer main/grinder pump station. In fact, the District's Sewer Use Ordinance states:

Section 4.7: Backflow Preventor - All floor drains shall have a backflow prevention valve installed at the property owner's expense.

Electronic Payments and/or Paperless Billing

PSSD has made paying your quarterly user charge simple, fast, and worry-free. Our auto pay option will simplify your quarterly bill paying and remove one task from your to-do list. Simply sign up and your user charge will be automatically deducted from your checking account on the due date. We also have the capability to e-mail your quarterly user invoices and monthly statements. Save paper, save a tree, and save money by helping to reduce operating costs. **Enrolling is Easy:** Sign up today! You will find the enrollment form on our website: <http://www.pssd-wi.org/payments> Don't forget to enclose a voided check.

A Few Reminders...

- If you see water pooling in your yard, this is not normal. Please contact the District immediately!
- Sump Pumps **are not permitted** to be connected to the sewer system. Clearwater must be pumped out into your yard.
- Snowbirds, please contact the office and let Cindy know when you will be at your winter address. We use bulk mailing services, and knowing your winter address will insure you receive your bill in a timely manner. Cindy can send both an email and paper invoice to make sure you receive your quarterly invoice while you are away.
- Please be sure to keep snow and ice off the top of your control box so others can see the alarm light. The service technicians need to be able to see if the red light is on as well as your neighbors if you are not home.
- If you see a red light on at any grinder pump station while out walking or driving by, please call 608-843-6026 immediately. If the red light is on and the station serves your home, **stop using water** immediately until our staff has made repairs. This means no showering, laundry, using a dishwasher, cycling water equipment, or flushing the toilet.



Thank you for your cooperation!

Do You have a Garbage Disposal?

Let's adopt this motto, "If you can pick it up, throw it away!"

While these appliances are great for fruit and vegetable scraps, they can't handle hard, non-digestible items, and neither can the sewer system. Here's what **shouldn't** go in the disposal:

- Bones from your chicken, turkey, beef or pork dishes. Shrimp or seafood shells should also be avoided.
- Large fruit seeds or fibrous plant scraps are too tough for blades to cut. Avocado and peach pits are great examples.
- Shells, like eggshells or nut casings shouldn't go in disposals.
- Skins from onions or potatoes can slip past blades and clog pipes.
- Coffee grounds and starchy comfort food scraps (rice, doughs and pastas) can clog your sink over time.
- FOGs – fats, oils and grease – can solidify and clog the disposal.



Remember, "If you can pick it up, throw it away!"