



# Water Talk



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Winterport Water District - 34 Sampson Street - Winterport, Maine 04496  
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## Sewer System Repair Project Continues

*By Steven Long, Chairman Board of Trustees*

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The District continues with its ongoing sewer system rehabilitation as part of the Combined Storm Overflow (CSO) Master Plan. These repairs were mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to eliminate discharges of highly diluted sewage to the Penobscot River. Upon completion of the replacement of the sewer lines on North Main Street in the fall of 2009 the project was shutdown for the winter. Construction resumed in the spring of 2010.

Due to very favorable bids in the first phase of the project, the District recently went out to bid to address two additional streets with the remaining funds left from Phase I. These streets have been identified as being in compromised condition and contributing excessive inflow of groundwater into the sewer system. There was a competitive bidding process in which eight construction firms competed for the work. The

Please see *Sewer System Repair* page 2

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## North Main Street MDOT Road Project

*By Steven M. Lane, Superintendent*

Since 2003 the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been planning to reconstruct the portion of roadway from School Street north eight-tenths of a mile toward Hampden. Due to a lack of funding, this project has been put on hold until 2010. The District has been notified that this project will move forward this year. Due to changes proposed in the roadway by MDOT, it will be necessary for the District to replace 1,600 feet of water mains, 600 feet of transmission mains, and 1,000 feet of house service lines in the construction area. The estimated cost for this MDOT North Main Street waterline project is \$434,000.

The Winterport Water District realizes the financial burden this places on its ratepayers and has actively sought relief for its customers. Applications to funding agencies have proved to be fruitful for our small utility. On April 22, 2010 the District was notified that it had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$193,000 and a \$241,000 low-interest loan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. The project is slated for a mid July 2010 start.



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*Winterport receives a \$193,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development*

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## Redundant Well Project

*By Doug Ronco, Treasurer*

*Employees of Goodwin Well & Water install the screen in the newly developed 8-inch Production Well #2*



The Winterport Water District continues with its backup drinking water well project in 2010. The new production well (PW 2) will provide the District's customers water in the event of the failure of the primary well (PW 1) and at times when maintenance needs to be performed to PW 1.

Last year the District was awarded \$128,000 in Stimulus funding to develop a backup well for mechanical redundancy. Of the \$128,000 awarded to the District, 45% of that amount or \$57,600 was in the form of principle forgiveness (does not have to be paid back), with the remaining amount to be a 0% interest loan.

In the fall of 2009, test well boring was conducted near PW 1 to determine a suitable location for the backup well. Once a site was located, an 8-inch well was installed in December.

In January 2010, step drawdown pumping tests were performed on PW 2 under the watchful eye of hydrogeologist Peter Garrett of Emery and Garrett Groundwater Inc. After analyzing the collected data from the pumping tests, the safe yield from the well was determined to be 150 gallons per minute. In addition, we are pleased to report that the water quality from the new well is excellent.

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*Sewer System Repair* from page 1

S.H. Bridges Company Inc. of Bangor was awarded the project with the low bid of \$300,000 to perform the sewer system rehabilitation work on Willow Street and Park Drive.



*Water – Our Greatest Resource.*

Construction work on these streets is scheduled to begin in late June 2010. Once the work on these two streets is completed, the next phase of the CSO Master Plan will begin in the spring of 2011. Flow monitoring in the sewage collection system will be performed in the spring and fall to assess the results of the completed CSO abatement work.

The District received a total of \$1,895,379 of funding for this project in 2009. Of this amount, \$1,645,379 was in the form of grants and principle forgiveness.

## Going Paperless With Your Utility Bill

*By Margaret Crossman, Assistant Treasurer*

Your paper utility bill is great until it becomes just another piece to add to that ever-rising pile. You can help the environment by going green and reducing paper waste.

In an effort to continue to reduce operating costs, the Winterport Water District is exploring the option of conducting paperless billing.

The District would email a quarterly water and wastewater utility bill in a single PDF file to customers who sign up for eBilling. The invoice would be an exact replica of the paper invoice.

If you are interested in receiving your utility bill as well as special notices by email, please stop by the District office or call our office at 207-223-5028 and ask for Margaret.

*Paperless billing benefits the environment and lowers costs by reducing paper consumption*

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 51 Sargeant Street  
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John Doe  
 33 Main Street  
 Winterport, Maine 04496

Account #	Billing Date	Curr. Meter	Curr. Sewer
38	10/02/2006	600	117.85

Account	Name	Location	Billing Period
38	John Doe	33 Main Street	10/02/2006 to 09/30/2006

Rate Class	Percent	Meter Reading	Previous	Date Meter Read	Consumption
RESIDENTIAL	123	114	07/29/2006		9

Water		Sewer	
Description	Amount	Description	Amount
Regular	14.99	Regular	117.85
Credit	14.99	Special	0.58
<b>Total Due</b> 0.00		<b>Total Due</b> 118.43	

10% Annual interest on unpaid balances      15% Annual interest on unpaid balances

Account Name: 12/02/2006      8.00      12/02/2006      118.43

Account Name: 12/02/2006      118.43

Return this bill with payment

## Water Theft – We All Pay

*By Steven Lane, Superintendent*

The Winterport Water District (WWD) is committed to providing high quality water and sewer services at the lowest possible cost to its customers. Water theft can compromise this commitment.

Theft of water by tampering with or bypassing water meters imposes costs on each and every paying customer. Water theft is a serious federal offense and can result in significant fines as well as criminal or civil prosecution by WWD.

The District’s computer based monitoring system, Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), recently detected water theft from a fire hydrant use on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup> during the early evening hours.

To address this illegal activity, WWD is asking for their customers support to deter water theft. Customer assistance in locating illegal connections is always appreciated and encouraged. Tenants of apartment houses or buildings are also encouraged to report any signs of water theft.

Anyone seeing the use of a fire hydrant for other than structure fires should report the use immediately to WWD.

Water theft has a negative effect on all WWD customers. If you are aware of water theft taking place in a property, or are suspicious that water theft may be occurring, please contact us at 223-5028.

*Did you know? The illegal operation of fire hydrants is dangerous and can result in waterline breaks and the malfunction of the hydrant when needed for emergencies.*

**Remember: We all pay for water theft!**



## WHAT IS FLUSHABLE?

### Wastewater Industry: Consumer Wipes

By Brian Richardson, Trustee

The Winterport Water District is requesting your assistance to prevent blockages in sewage infrastructure (pipes and pump stations) resulting from improper disposal of consumer products. Preventing blockages by disposing of these products properly will stop inconveniences to users of the system (caused by backups), minimize additional work for our staff, and avoid an increased cost of maintenance operations (and future upgrades to the infrastructure).

Examples of the consumer materials that can cause sewer blockages when disposed of in sewers include the following:

- Baby/disinfecting wipes
- Disposable toilet cleaning pads
- Moist towelettes
- Makeup removal pads
- Disposable mop heads
- Dental floss
- Surface cleaning wipes

While many of these products are marketed as “flushable”, several studies (and the experience of utilities across the country) have shown that they do not break down after disposal like common toilet tissue. The synthetic fibers that make the wipes and other products strong

and effective can cause them to form clumps that easily entangle in pumps without ripping. Sewage can back up behind these clogs, sometimes causing wastewater to discharge into homeowner basements or from overflow pipes into surface waters. These products should be disposed of in the trash. The wastewater treatment industry is working with the manufacturers of these products to provide more accurate labeling, to define the term “flushable”, and to ensure that products are disposed of in a responsible way.

Additional consumer items that may be labeled as “disposable”—such as diapers, feminine hygiene products, qtips, bladder control undergarments, plastic bags, and fabric cloths—should *never* be flushed. None of the products listed in this article should be disposed of in storm drain systems. For more information see this website: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/05/100526134152.htm>



A baby wipe after it has been flushed, gone through the collection system, and pulled from a pump station.

### A Note from your Board of Trustees

The Winterport Water District’s Board of Trustees is pleased to present the June 2010 edition of Water Talk, our latest newsletter. We hope our customers will use this newsletter and our Web site ([www.winterportmaine.org](http://www.winterportmaine.org)) to learn more about our operations. We continue to be appreciative of the support of our customers, the Winterport Town Council, and the daily efforts of the District’s 3 employees. The Board meets the second Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Town Office at 20 School Street. The public is welcome.

Steven Long, Chairman | Douglas Ronco, Treasurer | Barbara Economy, Clerk | Brian Richardson | Donna Gilbert