

# Newsletter

FALL/WINTER 2021-22

### Take Steps Now to Protect Your Septic System From Freezing

Common reasons septic systems freeze are a lack of snow cover and cold temperatures, combined with construction or "use" issues. These can include a waterlogged system, cold air entering the system, compacted soil or lack of plant cover. Others include irregular use of the system, leaking plumbing fixtures or a pipe that does not have the proper change of elevation.

If the soil over a pipe is compacted, the elevation of the pipe may shift, causing a loss of gravity flow. This results in water left standing in pipes, which can freeze easily. If



your system has frozen, you should contact a professional pumper or installer.

Here are some precautions:

- 1. Stop mowing the grass over the drainfield in early fall. Let it grow stronger to trap more snow.
- 2. Add a layer of mulch (8-12) inches over the pipes, tank, and soil treatment area to provide insulation. A mulch of loose hay or straw works well, as do leaves. The key is to keep it loose to form air pockets, which act as the insulators. This is particularly important if your system is new, and vegetation has not been well established.
- 3. Don't leave water running all the time to prevent freezing. A slow trickle could freeze, while a steady stream could overload the system.
- 4. Use normal amounts of water, the warmer the better. Spread out your laundry schedule to one warm/hot load per day, year around.
- 5. Don't add antifreeze to system.
- 6. If you plan to be gone for more than a day or two, plan accordingly. Have someone visit and use water regularly. If you are to be gone for an extended period (weeks or months), pumping the tank before you leave might be the best option.
- 7. Reroute the drip from your furnace. This slow drip can freeze in the pipes. Reroute this clean water into the sump or a bucket.
- 8. Fix any leaky plumbing. The small trickles of water going into the system can freeze as thin ice layers within pipes and eventually close them.
- 9. Keep all vehicles (including ATV's and snowmobiles) and high-traffic people activities off the system, all year.
- 10. Make sure all risers, inspection pipes and manholes have tight covers. Adding insulation is a good idea. Check for any cracks in the covers in the fall.
- 11. Keep an eye on your system. If any seeping or ponding occurs contact an onsite professional.

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## Police Notes: Message from the Chief

#### **SCAM AWARENESS & AVOIDANCE**

- 1. Scammers Pretend to be from an organization that you know. Scammers often pretend to be contacting you on behalf of the government. They might use a real name, like the Social Security Administration, the IRS, or Medicare, or make up a name that sounds official. Some pretend to be from a business you know, like a utility company, a tech company, or even a charity asking for donations. They use technology to change the phone number that appears on your caller ID. So, the name and number you see might not be real.
- Scammers say there's a PROBLEM or a PRIZE.
   They might say you're in trouble with the government. Or you owe money. Or someone in your family had an emergency. Or that there's a virus on your computer.

Some scammers say there's a problem with one of your accounts and that you need to verify some information. Others will lie and say you won money in a lottery or sweepstakes but have to pay a fee to get it.

- 3. Scammers PRESSURE you to act immediately. Scammers want you to act before you have time to think. If you're on the phone, they might tell you not to hang up so you can't check out their story. They might threaten to arrest you, sue you, take away your driver's or business license, or deport you. They might say your computer is about to be corrupted.
- 4. Scammers tell you to PAY in a specific way. They often insist that you pay by sending money through a money transfer company or by putting money on a gift card and then giving them the number on the back. Some will send you a check (that will later turn out to be fake), tell you to deposit it, and then send them money.

#### What You Can Do to Avoid a Scam

- 1. Don't give your personal or financial information in response to a request that you didn't expect. Legitimate organizations won't call, email, or text to ask for your personal information, like your Social Security, bank account, or credit card numbers. If you get an email or text message from a company you do business with and you think it's real, it's still best not to click on any links. Instead, contact them using a website you know is trustworthy. Or look up their phone number. Don't call a number they gave you or the number from your caller ID.
- Resist the pressure to act immediately.
   Legitimate businesses will give you time to
   make a decision. Anyone who pressures you to
   pay or give them your personal information is a
   scammer.
- 3. Know how scammers tell you to pay. Never pay someone who insists you pay with a gift card or by using a money transfer service. And never deposit a check and send money back to someone.
- 4. Stop and talk to someone you trust. Before you do anything else, tell someone a friend, a family member, a neighbor what happened. Talking about it could help you realize it's a scam.
- Please call the Lake Shore Police for assistance or to check on whether an organization or business is legitimate. Don't become a victim to a scam. Many scams originate from other states or countries and it's nearly impossible to get your money back.

## Roads Report: Fall 2021 Update

Update Provided By: Wayne Anderson, Council Liaison. The committee is charged with advising the City Council on items related to the City's roads and also its wastewater system.

The Roads Wastewater committee had a busy summer.

Robinhood Way was paved this fall, replacing the gravel surface, in response to a petition by residents whose properties adjoin the road. The steep hill that is part of Robinhood Way has always created a problem when the roadway washes out during heavy rains. Now there is curb and gutter along the road that guides the water run off down the hill and into a low area beside the road. This improves the road for the residents use as well as reducing the costs to the city to regrade after heavy rains.

Five City roads that were paved in 2020 had chip sealing applied in 2021. The chip sealing is intended to extend the life of the asphalt, and needs to be applied within one or two years of the asphalt installation.

In cooperation with PRASD (Pine River Area Sanitary District) the city has progressed nicely with GIS (Geographic Information System) surveying of the City's wastewater system. A GIS is a computer system for capturing, storing, checking and displaying data related to positions on the Earth's surface. The GIS will next be used to survey other items in the city. We will start with surveying the city cemetery and then move on to surveying roads, culverts, signs and other physical features in the city that would benefit from being closely located and having that information recorded.

## From Mayor Krista Knudsen



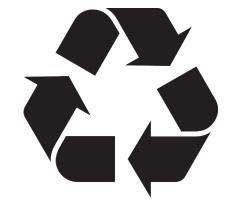
What a beautiful fall we have had in Lake Shore! The spectacular colors, the incredible temperatures and the breath-taking sunrises and sunsets! We are truly blessed to call this city our home!

I am happy to report that our beloved city is thriving as our busy summer season winds down. The city staff and city council have been conducting business as usual, utilizing the more secure and efficient building

layout, provided by our city hall remodel last spring. Our city council just finished budget planning for 2022. As a part of this process, we adopted a Sewer Rate Study that was conducted by Ehler's Public Finance Advisors. This agency was hired unanimously, in the fall of 2020 to conduct a study to help ensure this system is adequately funded by the users of the system for many years to come. Part of the recommendations that we adopted into our 2022 budget include a gradual, yearly sewer rate usage increase. This will end the drastic rate increases that have occurred less frequently in previous years, while assuring this enterprise fund is able to pay for maintenance and repairs as needed.

Other highlights of our budget planning workshop and discussions include: budgeting and planning for road repairs & maintenance and GIS mapping of our sewer system & city cemetery.

# WEEKLY CURBSIDE RECYCLING PICKUP



One Earth Recycling provides a curbside

recycling service in your area. We pick up your household recyclables, including plastic, glass, paper, and cardboard. Only \$15/month.

Call 218-513-3996 to schedule!

# UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

NOVEMBER 26, 2021
City of Lights Celebration
Downtown Nisswa

JANUARY 29, 2022
Brainerd Jaycees Ice
Fishing Extravaganza
Hole in the Day Bay
Gull Lake

FEBRUARY 25-27, 2022

Gull Lake Frozen Fore

Gull Lake

FEBRUARY 26-27, 2022

Nisswa 100

Snowmobile Race

Gull Lake/Pillsbury State

Forest

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**CURRENT RESIDENT OR:** 

# CITY OF LAKE SHORE, MN

#### **Council Members**

Henry Cote Doug Miller Wayne Anderson John Terwilliger

#### Mayor

Krista Knudsen

#### City Clerk

Patti McDonald

## City Administrator/ Planning & Zoning Administrator

Teri Hastings

Police Chief Steve Sundstrom

Public Works Roger Olmscheid

# 218-963-2148 cityoflakeshore.com

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#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Regular meetings of the City Council are held the fourth Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

#### Board of Adjustment/Planning Commission

John Terwilliger - Liaison Jim Woll - Chair

Glen Gustafson, Gene Hagen, Arla Johnson, Robert Toborg Alternates: Pat Hastings, Shawn Hansen, Pam Poston

#### **Environmental Committee**

Doug Miller - Liaison Lowell Naley, Ron Faust, Robert Eliason, Todd Amerman, Rosemary Goff

#### Road/Wastewater Committee

Alternate: Greg Schwanbeck

Wayne Anderson - Liaison Terry Hansen, Ray Rasinski, Jim Woll, Bill Schultz, Jim Halverson Alternate: Justin Stahnke

#### Park Committee

Henry Cote - Liaison Todd Peterson - Chair Steve Sundstrom, Mary Kay Larson, Wesley Roberson, Cindy Terwilliger