

Lift Station Pump Issues

8-7-2018

Whitetail residents:

Your SID #7 Trustees have been fighting through numerous issues with both pumps within our sanitary sewer lift station. As of today the pumps are both functioning well, but when Obrist, our Sanitary Sewer Contractor, pulled the two pumps recently they found rags and other miscellaneous items entangled within the electric pump/motor impellers. This is and has been an ongoing problem that needs to be addressed by all our residents at Whitetail. **Obrist strongly stated nothing more than toilet paper should be flushed through the sanitary sewer. That means products like flush-able wipes, makeup wipes, tampons, diapers, baby wipes or any type of woven cloth should NOT be flushed down the toilet.**

Our current bill to fix these issues has exceeded **\$3,000**, which is an expense that can be avoided if we think about what we are flushing down our sewer system. Lets please work together to avoid these types of similar issues.

For those who do not know where or what the lift station is, I have attached a picture of it and its location at the Northwest corner of our lake.



Below is a picture of one of the electric pump motor impellers with a rag caught within the impeller.



Other debris that was cleaned out of the impellers.



Thank you for listening to your SID Trustee recommendations and cooperating with keeping our sanitary sewer system functioning properly within a reasonable cost.

Bill Rongisch, Steve Stevens, Jay Marxsen, Tom Goc, Jim Boesch

8-8-2018 Follow-up by Tom Goc:

Bill,

Thanks for forwarding the message about the lift station on to everyone, I hope simple awareness of the issue will help to resolve the problem.

I've been a trustee for SID7 for quite a while, and have lived on Whitetail since 1990. This has been an issue that has plagued us for a long, long time and has been a VERY expensive problem to deal with.

Over the years we have had to rebuild several pumps and had to totally replace a couple. It costs us in excess of \$8000 to replace a pump, and as you have already seen, the recent expense just to have the pumps pulled and the impellers cleaned was \$3000.

We have had to remove everything from articles of clothing and dish rags and towels to personal hygiene products.

I don't think any of these items have been flushed with any malicious intent, or out of stupidity, I just think that as a whole, we really aren't aware of the damage that these things can cause.

One of the biggest contributors to our problem are "flushable wipes" like baby wipes, wet ones etc., and the fibers and strings from

tampons.

Although many of these items are labeled as “Flushable”, (and yes they will go down the toilet,) they will not break up and disintegrate like toilet paper does when it gets wet. Even after going through a “grinder pump, the fibers remain and tend to clog the impellers in our lift station.

Bottom line, the cost of these repairs gets paid by the SID, and the SID is YOU. \$10,000 in extra repairs divided by 100 lots is an extra \$100 from each of you. The city doesn't cover it, no other governmental entity covers it.....each of us as lot owners pays for it.

Please, please, please be careful what you flush. Even if it says “flushable”.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Make it a great day!

Tom Goc