**WaterLine WINTER 2015**

A publication of the Board of Municipal Utilities
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**THE FINAL COUNTDOWN: Sewer Separations**

If your home was built before 1972, make sure it isn’t sending your wastewater straight to Lake Erie by calling us at (440) 933-6226 to schedule our free compliance inspection. No fees will be assessed if we find something wrong. We’ll either let you know your home’s already in compliance, or help get you on your way there.

**Here’s what compliance looks like:**

* Slab homes with splashing downspouts may already be in compliance. Schedule your check-off visit from us at (440) 933-6226 so we can take you off our list.
* Not on a slab? You may have work to do. Call a contractor after we come. We have a list you can use. We can join you as you meet with them. They’ll give you your options. Most often that can mean one of the following:
	+ Adding a lateral—a pipe that carries water away from your house—to keep your rain water and wastewater separate as they travel to their separate sewers under the street. These laterals work by gravity. This is a go-to option for many, especially those homes prone to electrical outages—but is a more expensive option since more excavation is required.
	+ Adding sump pump, either inside or outside, to reroute your clean water. But sump pumps need electricity to work. If you lose power during a storm, you could be at risk for basement flooding.
	+ Either of these options could qualify you to receive $1,000 in credits to your wastewater bill during the next 10 years. The sooner your inspection and connection, the sooner you get the credit.

**What happens if you don’t do it?**

As early as 2018, the city will do it for you and charge you for it on your tax bill—and it will cost you more for sure then.

Unfortunately, Avon Lake’s founding fathers did not plan for the health of Lake Erie. While most Avon Lakers paid for this work when they bought houses built after 1972, the rest of us need to do it now so Avon Lake can stop polluting Lake Erie—and avoid wasting money on EPA fines.

If your street is listed below, and you haven’t called us yet, please do.

(Cappy: Insert graphic boxes from PDF)

**ICING UPDATE**

While winter’s mild start hints subzero temps may stay away this year, we have to plan for the worst--which we did after the 2014 icing event caused us to ask you to temporarily conserve your water usage. We’ve avoided ice incidents since then, and our plan is helping keep it that way. Changes we’ve already made include modifications to the grates on our underwater intakes that give ice less chance to restrict incoming water flow. In December 2015, the second part of that plan was rolled out: A $300,000 airbursting ice prevention system that shoots highly compressed air through small pipes to clear ice from the intake grates. A long-range plan element, the Storage Improvements Project (SIP), is well underway. These two 3-million-gallon, clean-water storage sites (at our water plant and on Walker Road west of Avondale) will be complete by 2018. The additional cushion of available clean water provides a more resilient water supply in the face of a changing environment. Even with its $32 million price tag, because of our large customer base, that resiliency will cost only pennies a day for each person per year for the next 20 years.

**2016 OUTLOOK**

We repair and replace water infrastructure (like water lines) to reduce the chances of future breaks—and water outages for you. In the next 5 years, we will be investing $25 million to $30 million to separate combined sewers and/or store wet weather flows in order to reduce Avon Lake's impacts on Lake Erie. These necessary projects (and their considerable price tag) are the reason your rates (and the rates of all water and wastewater utility customers) must continue to rise as we keep up with mandates from regulatory agencies. Here’s a look what we’re doing for you and Lake Erie this year.

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| **PROJECT**  | **LOCATION** | **EXPECTED START/FINISH** |
| Lake Road underground water storage (SIP) | Across from Avon Lake Water Plant (Lake/Electric/Moore) | Already started/late 2017 |
| Lear Road sanitary force main extension | Lear Road just north of railroad tracks | February 2016/March 2016 |
| Mull-Norman sewer rehab and water main replacement | Mull/Norman/Lake | March 2016/November 2016 |
| Walker Road water tower (SIP) | Walker Road near Miller Road | Spring 2016/2018 |
| Walker Road water main replacement | North treelawns of Walker from Jaycox to Bay VillageWalker from Mexichem west to Miller Road | Summer 2016/Fall 2016 |
| Wastewater plant rehabilitation | Lake Road across from NRG | 2016/2019 |
| Curtis Drive sanitary rehab and water line | Curtis Drive | Fall 2016/mid 2017 |

**Frozen pipes**

Even if you’re not going out of town, check out our video short to help you avoid freezing pipes this winter. Check it out at http://alwtr.us/PipeTips