Belmar sewer project a step closer to winter start date

The Belmar Combined Sewer Separation is getting closer to starting. Late last spring, the project was put on hold in order to continue refining the lateral replacement portion of the project. The heavy rains last year showed that disconnection of foundation drains in the formerly combined sewer areas of the city only when customers were performing foundation, foundation drain, or lateral repair was not proceeding quickly enough to prevent surcharging of the sanitary sewers. To address this during the Belmar separation, foundation drains will be prevented from ever entering the new sanitary sewer by assuring the foundation drain is connected directly to the storm sewer (the formerly combined sewer) and the only sewage lines from the house are connected to the sanitary lateral. Some houses within the Belmar area (usually those constructed after 1972) already have separate sanitary and storm laterals. Those homes that have only one combined sanitary and storm lateral will have separate laterals by the end of this project.

Though there will be a financial component that will be the responsibility of the homeowner, either through additional user rates, assessment, or contractor expense; there will be significant benefits associated with proceeding this way. First, the homeowner will have a new sanitary sewer lateral that does not have roots, structural defects, or other aspects that could lead to a backup into the home. Second, all clean water sources such as downspouts, yard drains, and foundation drains can continue to be connected to the future storm sewer. Third, customers will have the ability to now construct and connect yard drains or other devices to improve drainage on their properties.

Customer information meetings will be scheduled for later this fall. The project should start during the winter and should be completed in 2014. ALMU has a twitter account (@BelmarCSS) that we will use to alert you to construction schedules and let you know when new information is available on our website. Scan the QR code (Right) with your smart phone to link to the account.

Design finalized for Moorewood Combined Sewer

ALMU staff has contracted with a local firm, KS Associates, to prepare the design of the Moorewood sewer separation project; which will separate the combined sewers on Moorewood, Beachwood, Parkwood, Vinewood, Crestwood and parts of Redwood and Electric. The design should be completed in early 2013. Construction may begin later in the year or may be delayed to allow for the Belmar combined sewer separation project to be completed. Follow the progress on our website at www.avonlakewater.org or call 440-933-6226 for information.

Whitmer retires after 17 years on ALMU board

Chuck Whitmer, Avon Lake Board of Municipal Utilities Chairman, retired from the Board effective October 1, 2012. Chuck served on the Board for 17 years, 13 of which as Board Chairman, and brought a wealth of knowledge through his experience as president of The Whitmer Company, a consulting and distribution business in the water treatment and swimming pool industry.

Chuck was a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and Wholesale Committee, and served as the Board’s Liaison to the Mayor’s Office. During his tenure, Avon Lake Municipal Utilities (ALMU) significantly grew its customer base and increased the capacity at its water filtration plant by nearly 50 percent. This has allowed Avon Lake customers to have some of the lowest water rates in the state, while meeting all state regulations and regularly winning taste tests.

When asked what was his and the board’s crowning achievement, Chuck said, “Without a doubt, the decision to grow the utility’s wholesale business. We realized that additional revenue from local business and industry could not solely support the utility’s growth, so we created and implemented a strategic plan for continually growing the business outside of Avon Lake. Today approximately 85% of our
Deadline for $300 sewer credit is December 31st

If you live in one of Avon Lake’s formerly combined sewer areas, you have until December 31st, 2012 to participate in ALMU’s Foundation Drain Sump Separation Program.

The Board of Municipal Utilities has authorized an expenditure of $36,000 for 120 properties located in the formerly combined sewer areas of Avon Lake. Each resident/property owner is entitled to receive either a $300 sewer credit, or a $100 sewer credit and a basin pump, to permanently prevent foundation drain water from entering the sanitary sewer.

All the resident/property owner has to do is complete an acknowledgement form and apply for a building permit to participate. The permit is free for Foundation Drain Sump Separation Program participants.

Fall can be the best time to enhance your landscape

According to the experts, fall can be the best time for planting many trees and shrubs because of the special conditions that exist in the autumn.

When you plant in the fall, the ground is warm, usually around 55 degrees. Spring soil can be much cooler. Autumns in Ohio are typically characterized by regular rainfall, giving the plant ample opportunity to establish before winter sets in. Root development is enhanced by the plant’s opportunity to start establishing itself without the added pressure of supporting leaf growth.

Soil preparation is important. Enhance the soil with a good, balanced starter fertilizer, preferably one with soil microorganisms incorporated into the material. Fertilizer, as well as well-composted organic material, should be blended with the soil. Be careful not to over fertilize. Excess fertilizer and surface water eventually enter the lake, endangering its ecosystem. Note that organic fertilizers are generally better for the environment.

Back fill the area, leaving a “dish” (indentation) around the trunk of the plant to hold moisture. Water thoroughly and mulch well up to 4 inches deep in the fall, without touching the trunk or stems. In spring, rake off excess to a depth of 2 to 3 inches, water lightly and regularly during the summer.

For further information regarding fall planting, consult your nursery or the article “Fall is for Planting” at http://alwtr.us/FallPlnt •

Big Trucks had food and fun for everyone!

Sunny weather, free hot dogs, chips, and jugs of water compliments of Avon Lake Municipal Utilities, combined to make Big Trucks another big day of fun at the Avon Lake Safety Center, Saturday, Sept. 15. Big equipment, emergency vehicles and medieval arts were among the 40 exhibits on hand for the approximately 2,500 big and little kids attending.

Fall can be the best time to enhance your landscape and conserve water

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water capacity is sold outside the city limits. Only about 10% of our wastewater treatment business comes from the outside but we are continuing to grow that segment of the business.”

The Board’s focus on assuring the best balance of quality, quantity, cost, and service leads to high marks when customers are asked how they rate ALMU. Chuck and the board have always strived to ensure ALMU hired and retained a top-quality staff that is committed to providing excellent service.

All board members and staff agree that Chuck’s presence will be missed.

Board member Dave Marquard will serve as the acting chairman •

water LINE Fall/2012

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