

# South End News

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If you have any questions or would like to learn more about the South End Neighborhood Association and its programs, and our work to improve the South End Neighborhood in Waterville, Maine, contact Anna Holdener, Interim Chair, at [annah@kvcap.org](mailto:annah@kvcap.org)

## The Not-so-Royal Flush

By Timothy J. LeVasseur, Kennebec Sanitary Treatment District (KSTD)

It seems every time I turn on the television a new flushable product is being advertised. Some products claim they are bio-degradable with natural ingredients. Other items really don't say to flush after using, but they lead you to believe clean up is a breeze, no mess, just flush.

It's amazing to see how fast a new product on the market shows up at the local treatment plant within days of being released to the public. I recall in the 70's when the European market had allowed use of The Sponge, a birth control device. Years later the US market advertised that it will become available. So with my keen senses, I started to watch for "The Sponge". We saw it within days of the release date on our influent rotating drum screens.

It's fun when an operator unintentionally finds a product on the influent bar racks, such as money. I've been fortunate to start up several new Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs); we always framed our first dollar bill finding. The excitement continues in creating another demonstration of our findings. We collected items for viewing and display them for our Plant tours. The collection includes small toys, miniature balls, additional money, ID cards, dentures and many other items.

Items which we do not collect are men's socks, yards of dental floss, root balls, hair, self developing photographs, portion of slip liner used

for sewer relining, dead rats or alive and many other plastic goods which people use in various ways but feel the need to flush.

Then the problem gets serious when items like underwear, cloth handy wipes, and baby diapers, begin to cause pump plugging problems. The majority of this plug is made up of other common flushable products which people do not want to touch, or even look at, after they have used it. As you see what else is mixed in with these items you quickly learn that the Bar Rack room is not a place to eat your lunch.

Pump plugging is the number one cause to make life as an operator unpleasant. Maintenance personnel have creative ways to accommodate the process of cleaning out a clogged pump. Most guys I've seen can clean a completely clogged sewage pump without getting any spillage splashed onto their pants or shoes. But I have also seen some guys need complete rain gear to prevent contaminating their work clothing. Remember do not leave the material on the pump room floor. Poor housekeeping will haunt you if these materials get into your pump room sump pump during the night and flood the dry pit.



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The Quality of Life Committee (QLC) is a subcommittee of SENA, focusing on housing and safety concerns, and neighborhood beautification.

Meetings are at the South End Teen Center from 5:30-7pm the Thursday before SENA's monthly meeting.

## Quality of Life Committee Happenings

*By Paula Currie-Raymond, South End Resident*

The QLC meetings resumed in September as we continue to look at ways to help improve the health, safety and welfare of our small community here in the South End neighborhood.

We have harvested all the vegetables from the Moor Street Gardens, completed stocking the "Tool Shed Library" with summer and fall tools, and recently celebrated the gift of the shed, tools, labor, and artwork. Several folks from different organizations joined us in this celebration of sharing summer, fall, and winter tools. Waterville Creates, Serena Sanborn, artist, Doug Frati, builder, Chuck Lakin, KVCAP rep., Michele Prince, foods from Jorensen's, and so many others who joined us to kick off our volunteer work and extend a helping hand to neighbors

with the use of tools from the new toolshed.

We continue throughout the year to hold meetings once a month and we encourage ALL of our neighbors to find time on a Thursday late afternoon and join us from 5:30 to 7:00. Let us know what you believe the needs are in the area. What are your concerns? What do you want to see happen on your street(s)?

We do not meet in December – due to how busy everyone is over the holidays. We resume our meetings in January.

So from our house to yours, the folks at QLC want to extend a very heartfelt Happy Holiday(s) to one and all throughout the City of Waterville.



## A Friendly Reminder: Trash & Recycling pick up

Trash and recycling pick up can get confusing in the winter and around holidays. Putting trash bags out too early can block sidewalks, driveways, be too tempting for critters to resist, and get caught up by snow plows. Always looking to support neighbors, SENA wants to make sure you are getting the information you need about trash and recycling pick up.

The City of Waterville adopted a Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) system for trash collection, requiring residents to purchase special purple trash bags. The trash service is literally paid for when the bags are purchased, so residents are only paying for the amount of waste thrown away. In addition to the PAYT system, **free** zero sort, curbside recycling is available to residents—the only requirement is to have the bin clearly marked for recycling.

Trash and recycling pick up days are listed by street name on the City's website, <http://www.waterville-me.gov/publicworks/refuse-recycling-information/>. Holiday track pick up is as follows:

Holiday	Day/Date Observed	Refuse Will be Picked up
Thanksgiving	Thursday, November 22nd	<i>TBD</i>
Day After Thanksgiving	Friday November 23rd	<i>TBD</i>
Christmas Day	Tuesday, December 25th	Wednesday, December 26th



## Royal Flush, continued from page 1

There's the array of tools to grab and remove the plugs stuck in the pump or check valves. I've seen the use of: bare hands, hands protected by two layers of long rubber gloves, sharp proof gloves, short and long pliers, and packing remover tools. There's the technique to open the hand clean-out port and then open the inlet valve, flushing the waste on to the floor. Here's one for the books, I've heard of people turning the pump on, holding the discharge check valve fully open, then turning the pump off. This allows the water to flow backwards, in hopes that the plug unravels itself and goes back into the wet well.

We've all seen or heard about the smaller sewage pump stations that had a "dry weather overflow" due to the continuous plugging of what appears to be underwear. This polyester underwear does not dissolve. They seem to collect with other rags in the sewer system as they tumble down the sewer pipes to the station wet well. Most likely the currents created by the falling sewage in a wet well could create more of a snowball reaction of gathering additional rags before the pump turns on. Then WHAM! "HOUSTON WE HAVE A PROBLEM!"

At our Benton pump station the 7.5 HP Chicago centrifugal pumps plugs fairly often with what appears to be the new Swiffer's cloth handy wipes. This polyester material married with paper fiber creates wiping cloths that will not rip or dissolve such as a paper towel would. This stuff is tough; "you know Germans make good stuff".

Because of these clogging problems, KSTD staff has become the CSI of "Sewage Rags Investigation" (SRI). Our intelligence has demonstrated that these wipes seem to be from a large roll where the length of each rag varies. It appears that it's a multiple layer cloth with diamond shape symbols in the wipe.

And boy, whoever is the user, and then flushing it, uses a lot of it. Our SRI team has contacted the elementary school janitor who claims they do not use such cloths. We called 3 local automobile shops, same answer, not us! Now we are thinking it could be home care health users within various homes or possible home car care shops.

So what can we do to stop the dumping of these items into our sewer system? Yes, wastewater professionals always talk about public education. There are many examples of how Maine's WWTP had educated the public with success. Google it someday or call other area local WWTPs. But at some time we have to just say the answer is, "zilch, nothing, zip can be done to stop it. The answer may be the WWTP needs to adapt to the changes of sewer users".

But maybe we can be more aware of our pump station performance, upgrading and selection of proper equipment along with being aware of seeing potential plugs before they cause a dry weather overflow or reduce our capacity during a wet weather event.

It's amazing to me on how much does pass through a well maintained and operated pump system before it fails. Everyone involved in sewage pump station operations needs a "pat on the back for their success". But there are times when we do the "blame game", of what people flush down the toilet is causing the problem; or is it equipment failure and fatigue, or misapplied equipment...or maybe we just need to adapt to the change of time.

Adios and happy pumping.







The South End Teen Center is at 5 Libby Ct. in Waterville. Youth in grades 6-12 are welcome after school from 2:00-5:00.



## Teen Times

*By Anna Holdener, South End Teen Center, KVCAP*

The school year is in full swing and Teen Center staff and members fell back into the routine without skipping a beat.

End of summer activities segued nicely into the school year. Our summer gardening provided us with a bounty of produce to incorporate into Teen Center snacks and meals! New dishes and old favorites seem to taste better when you put the hard work in yourself. Favorites included: traditional and green salsas, spaghetti sauce, veggie stew, fajitas, and kale chips. Sautéed beet greens were a surprising hit.

An unexpected turn of events led to an extended internet free period, during which teens learned how enjoyable it was to interact offline. New friendships were formed over games of volleyball, badminton, 4-square, and bingo! To our excitement, the kids didn't realize when this period ended and we were able to enjoy additional activities such as puzzles and board games.

During the internet free period the teens were given a fundraising challenge of which they surpassed even their own expectations. Community members may recall the apple cider sale in the KVCAP parking lot, which was conceptualized and executed by the teens.

Our current group of teens would never forgive us if we did not mention all of the amazing conversations that we have been having. Topics covered last year don't hold a candle to what we have gone over this year. The maturity that has taken place over the summer is remarkable as we tackle adult topics such as voting, the prison system, objectification, sexism, racism, mental health, and the long-term impact of social trends and personal actions.

Topics that they are currently faced with include: peer-pressure, substance use, and healthy relationships. Topics that were covered last year such as this are able to be taken to a whole new level.

Though there are many highlights of the school year so far, the excitement and teen driven creativity around Halloween was enough to bring anyone back to memories of their own trick-or-treating days. Planning and decorating the Teen Center kick-started a series of Halloween themed discussions and games. The icing on the cake was everything coming together on Halloween night, where teens earned community service for hosting a pick up site for Center Point Church's "Trunk or Treat". The teens had a great time running games and handing out candy to neighborhood youth!

From being greeted by boisterous teens anxious to fill us in about their summer, to trying new activities, to daily examples of teen leadership, I'd say the school year is off to a great start!





## Regular Happenings at the Waterville Library

### **Mondays**

**4-6pm, Teen Room**

#### ***Teen Game Night***

There will be board games available, as well as games for the library's Wii and PS3! This program is free, and open to attendees under the age of 18. Light refreshments will be provided.

### **Tuesdays**

**10am-12pm, Colby Program Room (Lower Level)**

#### ***Job Search Lab***

Job seekers of all backgrounds are welcome! Get ideas to improve your job search, work on your resume/cover letter, and learn about education/training options. No appt necessary. FMI visit [www.watervillelibrary.org/events/](http://www.watervillelibrary.org/events/)

### **Thursdays**

**1:30-2:30pm, Children's Room  
*Homeschool Hub***

Homeschoolers grades K-12 are invited to meet for games, crafts, speakers, and more! Activities change weekly.

**4-6pm, Teen Room**

#### ***Teen Movie Night***

Free movie night open to attendees under age 18. The movie changes every week and light refreshments are provided. FMI, visit

[www.watervillelibrary.org/events/](http://www.watervillelibrary.org/events/)

**2nd & 3rd Thurs**

**5:30-7pm, Colby Room (Lower Level)**

#### ***Ukuleles at the Library***

Join this informal group to play, practice, or just start learning to play the ukulele. All skill levels are encouraged.

### **Fridays**

**10:30-11am, Waterville Library  
*Rhymetime for Babies, toddlers, and their grown ups***

Singing, clapping, and sharing stories with their grownups, children from birth to age 3 gain valuable skills and knowledge for later learning success. Join us for the active fun!



**WATERVILLE  
PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**For more information about the Waterville Public Library's events, visit:**

[www.watervillelibrary.org/events](http://www.watervillelibrary.org/events)

## Upcoming Events *(continued on page 6)*

### **Tuesdays**

**3-5pm, Common Street Arts, 10 Water St, Suite 106**

#### ***Teen Tuesdays***

Teens are invited to participate and explore an new art form each week with Common Street Arts. Teen Tuesdays are for ages 13+. Admission is \$12 per session. Scholarships available. Register at [www.commonstreetarts.org](http://www.commonstreetarts.org)

### **Thursdays**

**2-6pm, Main Street**

#### ***Farmer's Market***

Located along Common St, the Farmer's Market will be open rain or shine until the Thursday before Thanksgiving. The market moves inside the new Colby dorm December through April.

**Tues Nov 20, 2018**

**6pm, REM Building, Temple Street**

#### ***Trans Day of Remembrance (TDoR)***

Join us for this solemn event to remember those in the Trans community who have lost their lives over the past year.

**Fri Nov 23, 2017**

**6-9pm, Main Street**

#### ***Parade of Lights***

Downtown Waterville's Annual Parade of Lights kicks off the holiday season. Join us for a parade through downtown Main Street, leading to Castonguay Square where the giant tree will be lit an Santa opens Kringleville.

**Nov 24 through Dec 22, 2017**

**Most evenings, Castonguay Square**

#### ***Kringleville***

Visit the Kringles at their holiday home in Castonguay Square. Kringleville opens at 7:30pm after the Parade of Lights, and is open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4pm. The last week of Kringleville, will have additional hours on Tues, Dec 20 5:30-8pm. This is a free event, with photographs with Santa available for purchase. For more information, visit [www.kringleville.org](http://www.kringleville.org)



**SENA's Vision:** SENa is a group of neighbors and supporters who work, with an equal voice, to revitalize and energize the South End neighborhood of Waterville.

**SENA's Mission:** The South End Neighborhood Association (SENA) is a strong group of concerned citizens who are playing a key role in the revival of the neighborhood. Members of SENa are active agents of change in the neighborhood with an investment in seeing the neighborhood thrive. Current neighborhood activities include an annual clean up, bike swap, and neighborhood festival in partnership with National Night Out, the Waterville Police Department, and KVCAP's South End Teen Center.

FMI visit us on the web or email [sena.waterville.maine@gmail.com](mailto:sena.waterville.maine@gmail.com) or call 207-877-5297



Like us on Facebook at "South End Neighborhood Association (S.E.N.A.)"

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SENA.Waterville.Maine/>

## Upcoming Events Continued

**Sat Dec 8, 2018**

**10am-4pm, Common Street**

***Joy to the Ville***

This is the 2nd Annual community holiday celebration. Free family fun activities are available throughout downtown Waterville. Activities are hosted by Railroad Square Cinema, WatervilleCreates!, Waterville Opera House, Waterville Public Library, and Colby Art Museum.

**Sat Dec 15, 2018**

**10am-4pm, Quarry Road Trails**

***Free Ski & Learn-To-Ski Clinics***

Local residents and visitors are invited to enjoy a day of cross-country skiing and other winter activities. Welcome Center is open 10a.m. – 4p.m. to provide free snowshoes for loan (first-come, first-served), ski equipment demos, learn-to-ski clinics, snacks, and information.

**Thurs Jan 10, 2019**

**5:30-7:30pm, South End Teen Center**

***Quality of Life Meeting***

Learn about and get involved with the Neighborhood Watch (5-6pm). Stay for the Housing Committee (6-7pm).

**Sat Jan 12, 2019**

**9-11am, South End Teen Center**

***Monthly SENa meeting***

Come learn about what is happening in Waterville's South End. Optional social "hour" starts at 8:30 and neighborhood business begins at 9:00.

**Sat Jan 12, 2019**

**10am-6pm, Quarry Road Trails**

***Community Ski Free Day***

Local residents and visitors are invited to enjoy a day of cross-country skiing and other winter activities. Rentals, free snowshoes to loan, snacks and information can be found at the Welcome Center.

**Thank you to those who help us connect the South End News with the community!**

**You can find the newsletter at:**

Scotty's Pizza on Water St  
Waterville Public Library  
South End Teen Center  
KVCAP Transportation  
KVCAP Energy Department  
New Dimensions Credit Union

Maine State Credit Union  
REM Center/WatervilleCreates!  
Waterville City Hall  
Selah Tea and Jorgenson's Cafes  
Uncle Dean's Good Groceries  
Muskie Center