

## **FREDERICK COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT OF SHAWNEELAND MANAGER'S REPORT – FEBRUARY 2024**

### **Snow Removal:**

The Sanitary District has experienced several snow events this winter season. The staff works very hard to keep the roads as clear as possible throughout each and every snow or ice event. The staff clears snow and ice from approximately 100 lane miles of road in Shawneeland. In addition to the roads, we plow 5 parking areas and shovel snow from 2 mailhouse sidewalks. The staff pretreats the roads with a mixture of #9 stone, salt, and calcium to help with melting once the snow starts to fall. This mixture also assists in giving traction to keep traffic moving. Additional mix is used when and where it is needed during all snow events. This mixture will assist in melting snow and ice in temperatures down to the lower 20s. In areas where the sun has limited access to the road surface it will take longer for melting to occur.

Every trail is plowed and treated several times throughout every snow event. It may appear that the road has not been plowed but a snowplow cannot remove 100% of the snow. We put a big emphasis on snow removal and to do our very best each and every snow.

Please be patient and allow the plow drivers to do their job so we can get the roads cleared.

### **Tree Removal:**

As always dead and dying trees continue to be a big concern for staff and residents alike. We will continue removing dead and dying trees from Frederick County right of way. I will continue to use a licensed and insured tree contractor to remove trees that are not safe for the staff to remove.

If there are any trees that are dying and losing limbs it is deemed to be unsafe and it will be removed from the right of way. It is not cost effective to prune trees with dead or dying branches only to remove them months later.

### **Shawneeland Parking Policy:**

The Shawneeland parking policy was written and completed by the Frederick County Attorneys Office on November 1, 2016. The policy will be enforced as it is written at anytime a violation is observed.

Please follow this policy to avoid any inconvenience it may cause by having your vehicle towed. All tow bills are the responsibility of the owner of the vehicle in violation.

### **Cherokee Lake Level:**

The Cherokee Lake level has risen 18 feet over the past 7 weeks. This is due to the amount of moisture we have received during that time. At its lowest point the lake was 22 feet to the negative. This is a significant increase in a short period of time. Although the water levels

are on the rise, please keep in mind that the lake still has a significant leak. The rate of the leak where we measure it is at a loss of 122 gallons per minute. This may not sound like a lot but when you put it in perspective, we are losing 7,320 gallons per hour and 175,680 gallons per day. So, the key to keeping good levels is getting lots of moisture. Of course, this is something that is out of anyone's control.

### **Potholes:**

As I am sure most of you have noticed potholes are starting to pop up all over the subdivision. There are several contributing factors that result in potholes forming. Water penetrating through the road surface is how it begins. As we experience freezing and thawing temperatures the water expands thus cracking the pavement. The water also softens the underlying roadbed making it soft. This starts a process known as pumping when vehicles drive across these areas. This action further deteriorates the road surface resulting in road surface failure, or potholes.

The best way to keep potholes to a minimum is to seal the road surface to prevent water penetration. The lack of sealing road surfaces will result in very expensive repairs. It requires potholes being repaired by removing the road surface and any affected subsurface materials that have failed then new subsurface materials replaced along with new asphalt.

By maintaining a good surface sealing program this will substantially reduce the costs of pothole repairs. Surface sealing is a common practice not only in the state of VA but in all states across the country and around the world. The lack of maintaining a seal program will most certainly show itself in a very short time and will result in very expensive repairs.