



THE FLOW N' GO

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2015

KEEPING STORM DRAINS CLEAR OF LEAVES IS A DRAINING JOB, BUT SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT

With over 2,000 storm-water drains in Marblehead, keeping them all clear of leaves in the fall can be quite draining.

And with a drain department crew of two, this chore is nearly impossible without the help of our citizens.

“What are storm drains and what do they do?” you ask.

Also known as catch basins, storm drains are the entryway to the town’s stormwater drainage system for water that falls on our streets. Without storm drains, heavy rain would cause severe flooding.



On inclement days, rain-water and

anything else on the streets — like leaves — are drawn to the storm drains.

When storm drains are covered with leaves and other debris, water can no longer be drained from the streets. This can cause local flooding of roads and property. If this happens when the temperature falls below freezing, ice buildup on the streets can create a hazard-



ous situation for drivers and pedestrians alike.

How can you help?

- Don’t blow or rake grass clippings, leaves or other debris into the streets, drains or culverts.
- Be vigilant about keeping the drains clear. Whenever you see a blocked catch basin, please remove and dispose of the debris.
- Whenever the forecast calls for heavy rainfall or snow and ice, that is the time to inspect the storm drains in your neighborhood. Remove any leaves and debris from the catch basin and surrounding area before the storm strikes.
- If you didn’t get a chance to clear the

drains before the storm or if heavy rain has pushed leaves over the drain grate and the area is now starting to flood, *and* if it is safe to do so, grab a rake and remove the leaves.



- After the storm, maintain the catch basin openings by clearing away any snow or ice. Create a 10 to 12 inch path along the curb for melting snow and ice to drain to the catch basin.

While keeping the catch basins clear may be a draining chore, it is a necessary task so that the storm drains keep draining.

TIP OF THE QUARTER

Drinking Water is a Limited resource

Did you know that less than 1% of all the water on Earth can be used by people?

The rest is salt water (as found in the ocean) or is permanently frozen and we can’t drink it, wash with it or use it to water plants.

Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it.

CONTACT INFORMATION

781 631-0102
781 631-2694
781 631-2670 (FAX)

**Marblehead.org/
waterandsewer**

Superintendent
Amy McHugh

Assistant Superintendent
Bradley Perron

Office Manager
Paul Jalbert

Office Location
100 Tower Way
Building #11

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1108
Marblehead, MA 01945

DID YOU KNOW THAT OCTOBER IS 'SHOWER BETTER MONTH'?



There are literally hundreds of months officially dedicated to various themes and causes.

There is American Heart Month (February); Jazz Appreciation Month (April); National Ice Cream Month (July) - one this writer celebrates 365 days of the year; and National Guide Dog Month (September), to name just a few.

But have you ever heard of Shower Better Month?

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has officially declared the month of October as Shower Better Month. And this doesn't have anything to do with switching brands of soap or shampoo.

(If you are reading this after October has passed, keep in mind that it is always a good idea to Shower Better.)

According to the EPA, showering accounts for nearly 17% of residential indoor water use. That's more than 40 gallons a day for the average family.

By changing inefficient showerheads to water-saver showerheads, you will be showering better and saving the average family 2,900 gallons of water each year. You will also be conserving enough energy to power a home for 13 days, and reduce the average family water and energy costs by \$70 per year.

In just one year, a WaterSense-labeled showerhead can save the average family the amount of water it takes to wash more than 70 loads of laundry.

And there are other ways by which your household can save water (and money) when showering:

- Limit your shower time to 5 minutes;
- Collect the water in a bucket while it is warming up and use it later to water plants; and
- Turn off the water while shaving or brushing your teeth in the shower.

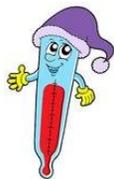
To read more about the EPA's WaterSense Shower Better program, visit their website at http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/shower_better.html.

Now, wouldn't it be nice if some agency or organization declared an official "We'll Pay Your Water Bill for a Month" month?

DON'T WAIT UNTIL WINTER IS HERE—PREPARE FOR IT NOW

Get ready because winter is coming and there is not a darn thing we can do to stop it.

Last year Marblehead saw record snowfall and weeks of sub-freezing temperatures. And guess what the Farmer's Almanac is calling for this winter? Brace yourself—a repeat of last winter.



This past winter's cold weather, though just a memory now, caused a higher-than-usual number of frozen water meters and pipes and resulted in some very expensive repairs for many Marblehead residents.

Don't let your home become a victim of winter's wrath this year.

Go to www.marblehead.org/water, click on Quarterly Newsletters and select the January—March, 2015 issue to read about tips to protect your water pipes and meter from the sure-to-come freezing temperatures.

And for you so-called 'snowbirds' lucky enough to escape to a warmer climate for the winter? Unless you take your home with you, don't forget to get it ready for a New England winter before you leave—or you might return to an unwanted and costly surprise.

Kids' Corner

Help your kids to 'Shower Better'

'Shower Better Month' isn't just for adults. Kids should start learning about water conservation at an early age so that when they become adults, saving water is a way of life for them.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has put together some 'Showering Facts' that you should share with your children:

- The average shower lasts eight minutes. A standard showerhead uses 2.2 gallons of water a minute. That adds up to nearly 18 gallons of water for each shower.

- Across the United States, we use more than one *trillion* gallons of water each year just

for showering.

- There are over 300 million people in the United States. If each person reduced his or her shower time by just one minute, we could save a combined 165 billion gallons of water each year.

How much water can your child save but cutting his or her showering time by just one minute?

Have them go to www.marblehead.org/water and click on Kids' Corner on the left side for a fun math challenge to find out how much water they can save.

It's never too early to learn to save water (and money). Every drop counts!