

## **FREDERICK COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT OF SHAWNEELAND MANAGER'S REPORT – AUGUST 2021**

### **Tar & Chip Program:**

The Tar & Chip Program was sent to the Finance Department on July 13, 2021. Once a contractor has been awarded the Tar & Chip project, I will post the specifics at the mail houses. The project should begin mid-September and be completed by the end of September. The Tar & Chip program I sent to the Finance Department includes 5.24 miles of trails to be treated. My original program included 5.46 miles. This should save a small amount on the overall budget for this year. A list of roads to receive the tar & chip along with a map are attached.

The staff started prepping the trails to be treated during the month of May. We cut down any low-lying limbs and branches overhanging the road. We reshaped the shoulders and ditches in a few locations. We are continuing to work on those trails as time allows to have them ready for the contractor in September.

You may encounter the tar & chip contractor during the month of September as you travel through the subdivision. Please take caution and pay attention to the signs posted in the work zone.

### **Lake Cherokee:**

The lake level continues to drop an average of an inch a day. We are currently 60" below full pool. This time last year we were at 36" below full pool. One of the reasons for the lake level falling at a faster rate is that the leak has increased. On January 4<sup>th</sup> of this year the rate of the leak by The Council House was 130 gallons per minute. Currently the leak at this same location is 170 gallons per minute. This is a 40 gallon per minute increase which equates to 57,600 additional gallons per day being lost.

The total amount of water being lost is unknown because we know of 2 other locations that lake water is surfacing with no way to measure the loss. I would guess conservatively that the lake is losing 300 gallons per minute.

Although we have several springs that feed the lake (two of which surface on the beach) and a small stream, it still cannot keep up with the leak. If 300 gallons per minute is being lost, this equates to 432,000 gallons per day. This certainly has a high impact on the beach or lack thereof because of water levels. The staff will continue to monitor the leak on a daily basis.

### **Red Fox – Geronimo Trails:**

The staff grader patched Red Fox and Geronimo Trails in their entirety. These two trails needed a major overhaul. In some spots, both trails were less than 9' wide and vehicles could not safely pass. This has been a long time coming getting these trails where they are today. We started several years ago cutting trees back so we could make shoulders and ditches. Over this time period we removed a couple hundred trees, replaced and upgraded drainage culverts, and

widened shoulders. Asphaltting was the last step. We placed 371 tons of asphalt on Geronimo Trail and 367 tons of asphalt on Red Fox Trail. We then added shoulder stone to complete this project. Traffic can now travel much safer on these trails.

### **Cherokee Lake Beach:**

Last year the beach at Lake Cherokee did not open until July 1<sup>st</sup> due to Covid-19. This year the beach opened on May 27, 2021. The staff started preparing the beach on May 24<sup>th</sup>. The staff picked up all the sticks, limbs, trash, and whatever else the winter winds deposited there. We hauled and dumped 17 dump truck loads which equates to 136 tons total of sand on the upper portion by the volleyball court. It was then carried down to the rest of the beach with the backhoe and spread out on the entire beach evenly.

We also did our safety checks on the two small shelters, the fence, and picnic tables. We mowed the grounds and weeded around the fence and anything that needed cut. We extended the buoy's an additional 12' this year because of the lake dropping so rapidly. This is as far as we can safely extend because this is the end of the sandy bottom. Beyond this point the bottom is large rock boulders and debris which makes it unsafe for swimming.

We test the water in the swimming area every week for E. Coli. If the levels are higher than 235 colonies per 100 milliliters, we are required to close the beach. The levels are running fairly low with the highest at 75.9 so far.

We continue to pick up the trash two times per week and mow one time a week at the beach. Also, the portable toilets are cleaned by the contractor every week. Throughout the season we also periodically do safety inspections of the fence, shelters, tables, and grounds.

### **Speed Bumps:**

As we all know there is a huge problem with speeding and reckless driving in Shawneeland. Some of the speeds my staff and I witness are excessive. I get calls from citizens regarding speeders from time to time and I explain to them that I can do nothing about the speeders. I direct them to the Frederick County Sheriff's Department. Most are reluctant to call in fear of becoming a target of retaliation.

The subject of speedbumps has come up from time to time, but I do not necessarily believe that speedbumps are the solution entirely. We have used portable speedbumps in the distant past but found them to be very dangerous. The bumps are held in place with spikes which tend to work loose and up toward vehicles. Some of the very low riding vehicles hit the bumps and pull them away from their location leaving the spikes exposed for vehicles to hit.

I think a combination of things would help our speeding issues in Shawneeland. I think a few speedbumps in critical locations could help slow some traffic down, but I think that law enforcement should and would be the biggest deterrent to the problem. As I said I think speed bumps would slow some of the traffic while others would speed across the bumps. I witness this with the two speed bumps we currently have in place. One on Tomahawk Trail at Comanche and one to the entrance of the mail house on Tomahawk Trail. Speed limit signs are

posted in strategical locations on the main trails in Shawneeland and are clearly visible. I am all about safety and keeping the traveling public safe, I do however think we should be careful to put speed bumps in locations just because we receive a complaint. I think much caution and consideration should be taken before any speed bumps are installed.

### **Sickle Bar Mowing:**

Every spring usually in May, we begin mowing along the trails with the sickle bar mower. This year has been a little different because we are operating short staffed. We have been short staffed since last July. I as the manager had to make a decision where the focus of the staff we have in order to maintain safety for the travelling public. This unfortunately means that some tasks will suffer. Mowing along the trails being one of those tasks. We have also fallen behind in weed eating and mowing once a week. We have had to forgo mowing a few times this year in order to finish projects that were more important. Myself and my staff are not proud of the fact that we must make these choices. We all have prided ourselves in keeping Shawneeland looking the very best we can and still get our road projects completed. This time of year also brings another type of staffing issue with employees taking vacation leave. We will continue to do the very best we can with the staff we have.

### **Bleeding Tar & Chip (Dusting):**

Bleeding tar & chip occurs when liquid asphalt fills the aggregate voids during very hot weather. The hot temperatures cause the liquid asphalt to expand to the surface of the road (this is known as bleeding). The road surface becomes very shiny and slick. Although this liquid is slick it is also very sticky. As vehicles drive across these area's the liquid will stick to the tires and eventually start to pull the road surface apart. This is a very unsafe condition for traffic to travel on. In order to keep this liquid from causing damage to vehicles or the road surface we dust the roads. This is a process of spreading sand, #9 stone, or stone dust on these areas to prevent any problems. This also a proactive approach to what could become a very big problem. The bleeding problem is not at all unique to Shawneeland. This is a problem nationwide. So, when you are travelling in Shawneeland and see the gray dust kicking up behind the vehicles you will know what it means.



## Trails to Receive Tar & Chip:

	<u>Name of Trail</u>	<u>Length in Feet</u>	<u>Width in Feet</u>	<u>Square Yards</u>
1.	Arrowhead	1,295	14	2,014
2.	Bowman	1,018	22	2,488
3	Firetower	700	11	855
4	Indiana	1,298	16	2,308
5	Maple	5,720	20	12,711
6	Rosenberger	284	22	694
7	Tecumseh	7,775	20	17,278
8	Tomahawk	9,552	20	21,227
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>27,642</b>		<b>59,575 sq. yds.</b>
		<b><u>÷ 5,280</u></b>		
		<b>5.24 miles</b>		