

# Livingston County Regional Sewer System

## (including Runyan Lake area)

Runyan Lake is protected by a sewer system. Our lake and ground water quality continues to benefit from this action.

*History:* During the period of 1988 to 1991, the properties around Runyan Lake were connected to a community septic system. This system, which had its leaching beds, or septic fields, located away from the lake, began the process of protecting and cleaning the waters of Runyan Lake.

No longer did water leaching from individual septic systems reach Runyan Lake. This important change also helps protect our private wells by preventing groundwater contamination. This system functioned as a community sewer system and was operated and maintained by the Livingston County Drain Commission.

*How it works:* The sewer system around Runyan Lake operates differently than many sewer systems. A traditional sewer system has a pipe that connects to your home. This pipe carries the waste to a sewer treatment plant for processing.

The Runyan Lake system has several additional components. Each home has a holding tank. Most of these tanks are black plastic and hold nearly 1,200 gallons. Inside the tank is a pump, operating similar to a sump pump. When the water in the holding tank reaches a certain level, the pump turns on and pumps the water into the sewer system.

The tank also acts as a septic tank, breaking down much of the waste using biological activity. The advantage of the holding tank is that if the power fails, or some other type of sewer back-up were to occur, you have capacity in the tank so you can continue to use your household appliances without fear of the sewer backing up into your home. About 800 gallons of the tank is used for reserve capacity.

*Recent upgrades:* During 2003, in response to stricter requirements from the EPA and the MDEQ as well as performance concerns with the aging septic fields, Tyrone Township established a regional sewer system. With this improved system, waste water is pumped to a sewer treatment plant located in Linden.

As part of this upgrade, the pumps located in the septic tanks are being changed to more reliable, better performing "grinder" pumps to pump away all sewage waste material. Because of the pump change, residents should no longer need to have their septic tanks pumped periodically.

*What you need to know:* The water level in the holding tank is monitored by a level system. If the water level becomes too high, an audible alarm and flashing light will activate. The alarm and light are part of a control box mounted to the side of each home. The alarm can be silenced by pressing the silence button. The light will stay on until the water level is back to normal depth.

**If the alarm sounds, IMMEDIATELY CALL the Livingston County Drain Commission at 517-546-0040, leave a message if out of normal hours. You will receive a call back and maintenance personnel will arrive shortly to identify the cause of the alarm.**

**Until the cause of the alarm is identified and fixed, water usage must be restricted to prevent a back-up into your home.**

Please also refer to the sewer system Do's and Don'ts published by Livingston County.

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**Runyan Lake Inc.**

PO Box 105, Fenton MI 48430-0105, USA

[www.runyanlakeinc.com](http://www.runyanlakeinc.com)