



City of Marco Island  
50 Bald Eagle Drive  
Marco Island, FL 34145

April 10, 2009

Dear Lamplighter Sewer District Homeowner:

This letter is being sent to Homeowners in the Lamplighter Sewer District who have not yet connected to City sewer as of this date. We are providing information on two subjects: A) The extended availability of hiring the City's plumber for sewer connection, and B) Information regarding the possibility of converting your septic tank to a cistern for irrigation purposes.

On February 1, 2009 the City sent you a notification that the Lamplighter Sewer District system is complete and you have various options to connect to the new central sewer system which included the abandonment of your current septic tank. This notification provided you with three options. The three are:

1. Use the City's contractor to connect your home to the central sewer system and abandon your septic tank.
2. Hire private contractors to undertake the connection to the central sewer system and septic tank abandonment.
3. Demonstrate that you currently have a qualified advanced treatment septic system and request a waiver to sewer connection for up to 10 years.

The February 1, 2009 letter required you to notify us that you are choosing Option 1, as described above, by March 15, 2009, or it is assumed that you have chosen Option 2 or are able to comply with Option 3.

City Plumber Still Available

We have extended the date to sign up for hiring the City's plumber from March 15, 2009 to May 20, 2009. If you are interested in hiring the City's plumber, please return the completed connection selection form to the City, or if you do not have the form, call Keith Shinabarger at 239-389-3923 or pick up the form at City Hall or Utility Customer Service.

Septic to Cistern Conversion

On March 19, 2009 the State Health Department notified the City about potential changes to the current requirements pertaining to the abandonment of septic tanks. Specifically, the current rule requires that existing septic tanks are to be destroyed after the home is connected to the central sewer system. This rule may be changed in the coming weeks. These changes include allowing the conversion of an inactive septic tank to a cistern for irrigation purposes.

This is a great opportunity for each homeowner to conserve rain water for irrigation. The City fully supports this conservation effort. A fact sheet is provided to help you decide if you wish to pursue this opportunity. Please read this fact sheet carefully, and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Based on this recent Health Department information, we have modified the deadline for responding to the February 1, 2009 letter, to allow you additional time to evaluate this new alternative. Please notify the City of which option you wish to pursue by May 20, 2009.

Homeowners who wish to convert their septic tank to a cistern must choose option 2 and notify the City (see attached form) so you may be included in a grant program. The City is submitting a grant request to the South Florida Water Management District, which if fully funded as requested, may be able to reimburse up to \$750 of the actual cost to each property owner who converts to a cistern.

Please review the enclosed fact sheet for details which identifies the period when this conversion may occur to receive reimbursement for the conversion cost. Please note that we have estimated the septic to cistern conversion cost to be between \$3,000 and \$5,000.

Choosing to convert the septic tank to a cistern does not change the date you must connect to the system, which is still February 1, 2010.

Should you have any questions, please contact me by phone 239-389-5064, fax 239-389-4359 or email: [Rjoel@cityofmarcoisland.com](mailto:Rjoel@cityofmarcoisland.com)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Rony Joel', is centered on the page.

A. Rony Joel, P.E., DEE  
Public Works Director