

LCDU displays essential equipment for sewer line service

BY MARIAN MCMAHON
Gazette Newspapers

LAKE COUNTY — The Lake County Department of Utilities recently put two of its trucks, which are equipped to find sewer blockages and clear them, on display for the public.

LCDU Director Rick Martin advised the Lake County Board of Commissioners, at their May 15 meeting, that one vehicle was a jet vac truck.

"That truck's used for cleaning and maintenance of sewer lines, the lift stations, tanks," Martin said. "It uses up to 80 gallons of water per minute and for cleaning or root cutting... it actually has a root cutter—a little device that spins and can cut those roots out."

"It can produce up to 2,000 pounds of pressure at the end of a 600-foot hose."

The truck not only clears the sewer lines but also collects the cut-up roots, grease and other debris which are blocking the lines.

The second truck is a closed circuit television (CCTV) truck, which has a small camera on wheels—which looks like a mini-tank, Martin said—that can go into 6- to 48-inch sewer lines to survey blockages and/or damage, in color. The camera rotates to survey the entire circumference of the lines.

"We can look up private laterals a little bit; we can look for cracks; we can look for tree roots; we can also



PHOTOS BY MARIAN MCMAHON

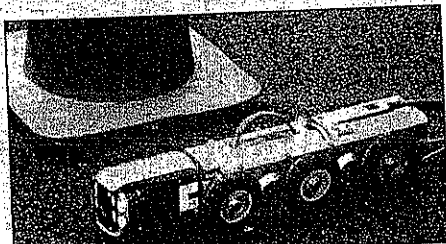
Lake County Department of Utilities Director Rick Martin tells the Lake County Board of Commissioners about two specially equipped trucks on display which are essential for maintenance and repairs of county sewer lines at the May 15 meeting.

look for areas where there might be inflow or infiltration from stormwater events, often at the joints," Martin said.

Three LCDU employees have certification to run the equipment and grade the damage by national standards. Videos are then sent to the LCDU Engineering Department for review and determination of what priority the problems should be.

Kermit Johnson, LCDU manager for collection systems, explained how the operators can review previously taped videos of sewers or what the camera is seeing in real time.

The jet vac truck was unavailable for viewing at that time since it was called out to clear a sewer line.



This camera is used to video sewer lines for the Lake County Department of Utilities to find blockages, cracks and leaks.



Matt Armand, LCDU public services coordinator and Ken Paprocki, one of three LCDU employees certified to operate the CCTV, show how the controller for the