



Village of Oakfield Newsletter

Spring 2015

Dear Residents:

The Village of Oakfield will be conducting “Smoke Testing” in the sanitary sewer system in your area this month. A non-toxic smoke will be blown into the sewer system to reveal leaks that allow storm water and other surface water to enter. Locating and correcting these leaks will conserve capacity in the sanitary sewer system, and help the Village to avoid additional treatment costs and raising rates to pay for new treatment facilities to handle the storm water entering the sewer collection system. A record of leaks will be made.

If traces of smoke or its odor enter your house or building, it is an indication that odor from the sewer system may also be entering. This can be unpleasant, dangerous and a potential health hazard. The location, identification, and correction of the source of any smoke entering your building should be quickly addressed by your plumber. Representatives from the Village can provide assistance in locating the source of smoke entering your house. Any defects in the pipes and sewer infrastructure on private property is the responsibility of the owner and such defects are a violation of the rules and regulation governing the sewer system.

Correction of any defects in the pipes and sewer on private property is the responsibility of the owner.

Smoke Testing will likely take place during the weeks of April 27th and May 4th on the following streets:

- Main Street (NYS Route 63) between North Pearl Street to Bennett Avenue;
- North Pearl Street between Drake Street to Water Street;
- Drake Street (NYS Route 262), east of intersection of North Pearl Street;
- Irving Place;
- Drake Street east of Irving Place;
- Dodge Street;
- Coe Avenue;
- Stevens Street;
- Orchard Street;
- South Main Street (NYS Route 63) between Orchard Street heading to the southerly Village line.

Page 2 of this news letter is a list of frequently asked questions regarding smoke testing of sanitary sewers. If you have any questions or concerns, please call Dave Laney at 585-356-0908 or the Village Hall at 585-948-5862.

Thank you for your cooperation.
Sincerely,

Jason Ambrewster
Village of Oakfield Mayor

**Smoke Testing of Sanitary Sewers
Frequently Asked Questions**

What is Smoke Testing and why is it conducted?

Smoke testing is one of the most efficient and cost effective methods of locating sources of inflow and infiltration problems with sewers. The non-toxic smoke will help locate places where storm and other surface water enter the sanitary sewers.

Smoke testing is conducted by placing a blower over a centrally located manhole and forcing non-toxic smoke-filled air through the sewer lines. The smoke under pressure will fill the main line plus any connection, then follow the path of any leaks to the ground's surface, quickly revealing the source of infiltration and inflow (I & I).

I & I occurs when groundwater or rainwater enters the sewer line through cracks, breaks, and/or areas not intended to drain to the sewer system. This additional water robs the pipes of needed capacity and causes overflows and flooding. The smoke will be noticeable wherever there is a leak in a sanitary sewer pipe, such as a crack in a sewer pipe, a cross connection between a storm sewer and a sanitary sewer, where a roof drain is connected to the sanitary sewer, from a broken cleanout cap, or from a defective or damaged manhole.

What happens if the smoke test reveals an issue on my private property?

The Village of Oakfield will issue a Notice of Violation of the Sewer Use rules and regulations.

Is the Smoke harmful?

No. The smoke is specially manufactured for testing and is not dangerous or toxic, it leaves no residue or stains, and should not affect plants or pets. Visible smoke and/or smoke odor will last only a few minutes in cases of proper ventilation.

Should smoke come out of the roof vents?

Yes, during testing, do not be concerned if you see smoke coming from your rooftop sewer vents. This is normal. Smoke should exit the vent stacks of the surrounding properties within the testing area.

What if smoke enters the house or building?

If traces of smoke or its odor are detected in your building or home, it is an indication that gases from the sewer system could also be entering. Sewer gases can be dangerous, and some of these gases have no odor or color, and can enter a building undetected. If you observe smoke in your building during testing, we urge you to contact your plumber to have him locate the source of the leak that you have witnessed, and take the appropriate corrective measures. Location, identification, and correction of the source of smoke that enters your building should quickly be addressed.

If smoke does enter your building, any of the following items are the probable because:

- The vents connected to your building's sewer lateral are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed;
- The traps under sinks, tubs, basins, shower, floor drains, etc. are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing;
- The pipes, connections, and seals of the building's sewer system are damaged, defective, have plugs missing, or are improperly installed.

Can smoke block the sewer?

No. The smoke will be generated by lighting a smoke candle, which emits a stream of smoke. The smoke is a vaporous substance and cannot clog a sewer pipe.

What should I do to prepare for smoke testing?

To avoid smoke from unnecessarily entering your building, we suggest you run water into all of your drains (approximately 1 gallon of water), especially those drains that are used infrequently, such as basement and garage drains.

I will not be home during smoke testing and have pets in the house. What should I do?

The smoke is not harmful to pets. It would be a good idea to leave several windows partially open for ventilation, should any smoke enter the building. If you have proper plumbing connections and all of the traps have water in them, there should not be any problems.

Will rodents be smoked out?

No. However, the smoke will detect broken building sewers where rodents might have access. Owners will be notified to repair broken building sewers.

Who should I contact if I have any questions?

If you have any questions regarding this Project, please contact: Village of Oakfield

Dave Laney, Department of Public Works Superintendent
 Andrew Maguire, Village Clerk/Treasurer
 Office: 585-948-5862; DPW: 585-948-5994
 Email: ivillage@rochester.rr.com

The 2015 Street Improvement Projects for Forest Avenue and Water Street is scheduled to begin this spring. It is anticipated that the work will extend from May through October.

In January 2015, the Village, through a competitive bidding process, received 14 bids from local and regional contractors. Visone Construction, Inc. from Depew and American Paving & Excavating, Inc. from Clarence Center were awarded Contract Nos. 1 and No. 2, respectively. The work is divided into two contracts, Contract 1 to replace the sanitary sewer, water main and storm sewer and Contract 2 to reconstruct the roadway, install concrete gutters and replace the concrete sidewalk. Additionally, some widening will take place along Water Street to provide parking spaces.

Access for the residents and school buses as well as sewer and water service will be maintained throughout the duration of the project. Brief shut downs will occur to connect house services to the mains and will be coordinated with the residents. Additional information will be distributed to the owner and residents in the coming weeks.

Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study Project:

The Village is conducting a sanitary sewer evaluation study (SSES) with the help of New York Rural Waters Association and Mountain Engineering. This study will evaluate the sewer system to determine the cost-effectiveness of future sewer system rehabilitation to help eliminate infiltration and inflow (I & I). The study began last year with flow metering and monitoring at various points throughout the Village to identify high flows during rain events. Non-toxic smoke is introduced into the sanitary sewer system. The smoke filters through the system and will appear where a leak exists. It is the leakage points that will cause the I & I flow in the system. The next step in the evaluation process is to perform smoke testing in select areas of the sewer system. Smoke Testing will likely occur during the weeks of April 27th and May 4th. Please see page one of the Newsletter for streets that will be tested.

Other phases of the study include sewer main televising along some streets listed above. The Village Public Works Department will clean the sewer mains prior to the televising inspection by a representative of Rural Waters at the end of May. Sanitary manholes will also be visually inspected by the Village and Engineer to document their condition. Letters will be distributed to the residents along the aforementioned streets that will be impacted by the Smoke Testing procedure.

Department of Public Works

The DPW will be picking up brush on Mondays (weather permitting). Yard debris should be placed in containers such as 5 gallon pails or small trash cans light enough for one person to lift and not weighing no more than 40 lbs. *(Plastic bags are not acceptable).*

We are now required to chip all tree trimmings and branches, so please put tree trimmings into small piles with the cut ends facing the same way. Please keep children off planters

along the sidewalks on Main Street. Trash cans and smoke receptacles have been placed along Main Street for your use to help keep our new Main Street looking nice.



Thank you,
Dave Laney,
 Department of Public Works

Message from the Mayor



Dear Residents,

As spring and summer time approaches, our Village will see an increase in pedestrian traffic, as well as an increase in scheduled events. Please be mindful of your surroundings and let's keep the Village beautiful and safe for all to enjoy. Here are just a couple updates to look forward to:

- The Village will have added Sheriff's patrol throughout the year.
- Overnight parking on Village streets will resume on May 1st.
- We will be undertaking two necessary street reconstruction projects; Forest Avenue and Water Street
- The Little League Parade will be held on April 25th @ 9:00-9:30 AM and will kick off the season.
- The Memorial Day Parade will be held on May 25th @ 11:00-11:30 AM.
- The Fire Department will be holding an open house on May 25th as well.

The DPW Department will be hard at work on many items; the brush pick up has resumed, this keeps the streets clean of debris. Many steps have been taken to try and increase the quality of water provided from the Village. There are a couple projects going on with our Waste Water Treatment Plant for increased efficiency and output. Memorial Park

is already looking amazing and is enjoyed by many for leisurely walks and exercise. Triangle Park is a focal point of the Village and will be maintained regularly. Our 2015-2016 budget is almost finalized and I am proud to say we will be keeping the tax rate the same. The services we provide to the Village are top notch, and we are able to do so at a very low cost to residents.

We are participating in Green Genesee Smart Genesee to try and maximize our efficiencies, shared services plans, and the properties owned by the Village. I am proud of all the things we have accomplished and see a wonderful future for the Village. We continue to make strides improving the quality of life for our residents and we are able to do so with no increase in property taxes. I want to thank each and every one of you for everything you do for this Village, and I wish you all a happy and prosperous year.

The Village is looking into the Zoning Laws and a public hearing will be held before any Zoning Laws are amended.

Best Regards,

Jason Armbrewster
Mayor



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