

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

Dear Village Resident,

The Village of Campbellsport operates two sewer systems within its village limits, a storm water system and a sanitary sewer system. The storm water system is designed to transfer naturally occurring water from within the village to the Milwaukee River. The sanitary sewer system takes the water and wastes that flow through the plumbing systems of our properties and treats this flow before releasing the treated water into the Milwaukee River.

If our sanitary sewer system were operating as intended, we would be treating no more water at our sewer plant than we are pumping from our wells. However our sewage treatment facility has a past history of treating a significant amount more water than is put into our system by our wells. This situation became a major problem last year during the period of heavy rain in the spring of the year. During that period, so much water was entering our sewer system that the pumps that feed our sewage treatment facility could not handle the flow. In order to avoid possible backup of this sewage flow into the basement of village homes, some portion of this flow was diverted directly into the Milwaukee River just below the dam.

This is a violation of the permits between the Village and the Department of Natural Resources. We could have been fined for this violation, at that time, and still could be fined if we do not meet the requirements established by the DNR. Their requirements are that we establish a plan that will reduce the possibility of ever having to resort to the dumping of untreated sewage into the Milwaukee River in the future.

Prior to last spring, the Village had started a program to limit the amount of ground water that was entering our sewer system. Some of the older sewer lines in the village are constructed with piping materials that lose their ability to seal out water over a period of years. To correct this problem, some of these suspected problem areas were lined with a plastic material to greatly reduce this leakage. Last year the pipes in Barton Road from Main Street to the south, and in Main Street from Barton Road to Fond du Lac Avenue were lined with this material. Just recently, St. Joseph's Convent has installed a major upgrade to their sewer line. In cooperation with the convent, the Village has installed a new manhole for this line and has installed a plastic lining from this manhole to where this sewer line enters our main line, which runs down Main Street. This portion of the sewer line, which was lined with plastic, actually serves a large number of properties in the area west of the convent, in addition to the convent.

The Village intends to continue to upgrade the sewer lines throughout the village as funds are available, and as the need is justified. But to meet the requirements of the DNR, we also must insure that only sewage wastes are entering the sewer system from individual property owners. Naturally occurring water within the village must flow through the storm water system, not through the sanitary sewer system. Any waters collected by the gutters and downspouts on a property, or waters collected in a sump pump system are not to be routed into the sanitary sewer system. As part of the regular program of checking water meters by Village employees, these employees are required to do a check of the sewer system of each property. Whenever they become aware of possible violations of storm water routing, they are required to fill out a report on this condition. Property owners with these violations are required to correct these situations or face legal actions from the Village.

For any property where a potential violation was observed by a Village employee, the Village will notify the property owner, that a possible violation exists. It will be the responsibility of the property owner to bring that property into compliance or show to the Village that no violation actually exists. The property owner will be given approximately 30 days to respond to this letter and then a follow-up check will be made on the suspect property. If a violation still exists on the property, a fine will be levied against the property owner and the fine will be increased monthly until the problem is corrected. Failure to pay the fine or correct the problem will ultimately result in the disconnection of service by the Village.

This could result in some costs to individual property owners, to correct these violations, but we merely want to treat all property owners equally and provide the best possible service to all the customers of our utilities.

Tr.Patrick Twohig,
Chairperson, Sewer & Water Utility