

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR SEWER

IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT YOUR GRINDER PUMP

Clark Township Offices
207 N. Blind Line Road
Cedarville, MI 49719

Phone: (906)484-2672

Hours of Business
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Monday through Friday

CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS

Mark Clymer, Supervisor
Susan Rutledge, Clerk
Lisa Fitzgerald, Treasurer
Steven Kozma, Trustee
Patrick Schuster, Trustee

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.clarktpw.org

As a system user, you are undoubtedly aware of the operational challenges that really mess up the sewer system. In May, we had a very costly incident in which **DISPOSABLE WIPES** were to blame. They **DO NOT** disintegrate, and they meet up with other elements in the sewage system and create obstacles that are unhygienic and are very expensive to fix. It broke our machinery, and the cost was over \$29,000. Once again, we are asking

for your cooperation in observing the following:

NEVER!! NEVER!!

Introduce any of following items into the sewer system directly or through a kitchen garbage disposal unit:

1. **DISPOSABLE WIPES, DIAPERS, RAGS SOCKS, CLOTH**
2. Glass, metal, seafood shells, goldfish stone
3. **Sanitary napkins** or tampons

4. **Kitty litter** or bird cage refuse
5. Explosive, fuels, flammable items or **strong chemicals**
6. Lubricating oil and/or grease (**including cooking oil**)
7. **Unused** or **expired medicines**
8. Coffee grounds

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE FOR UPGRADES TO OUR SEWER SYSTEM ON AUGUST 8, 2023

What to Do During a Power Failure

Your grinder pump can't dispose of waste water without electrical power. If power is interrupted, keep water usage to a minimum.

SEWER MILLAGE

- The current pumps and system have a life expectancy of 20 years and we are long overdue for new equipment.
- We are receiving funds from the State Revolving Fund in the amount of \$5.21 million at a 1.8% interest rate with loan forgiveness of \$1.8 million.
- All grinder pumps and control panels will be replaced. The new control will turn off when too much pressure is detected to alleviate backups and pump breakdowns.
- The ¼ millage proposed will raise \$54,000 per year and this equates to a \$25 increase for every \$100,000 in taxable value of a home per year.
- This millage is important to all residents, not just to those directly on the sewer system. The system gives our local businesses, organizations, community events and residents to the ability to maintain a healthy and proper operational sewer disposal system.

WHAT TO DO IF YOUR SEWER BACKS-UP

If you experience a back-up of your sanitary sewer, determine first if the drains back-up **only** when you run additional water into them. If so, the blockage is most likely in your building drain and is your responsibility to clear. If sewage has entered your home while no water is being used or continues to spill out of drains after water use is discontinued, something may have blocked the

public main. If either occurs, or if your audible/visual alarm is activated, follow these steps:

1. **DO NOT** shut-off power.
2. Discontinue use of water.
3. Contact the Dept. of Public Works immediately.

SEWER DEPARTMENT 906-484-2026
 CLARK TOWNSHIP 906-484-2672
 AFTER HOURS, WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAY'S
 JIM - 906-430-8060
 KEN - 906-203-1949

SEWER DEPARTMENT REQUEST
 We strongly advise our sewer customers use LIQUID laundry and/or dishwasher detergent. Powders do not fully dissolve and create a buildup in the lines from the grinder to the street.

SEWER HISTORY

- 1960's - Purchase/install a gravity system in downtown Cedarville
- 1990's - Sewer Expansion Project – the sewer system was expanded to a pressurized system and grinder pumps.
- 2013 - A consolidation loan was taken out to consolidate the projects from the 1960's and 1990's. This is a 40-year loan and cannot be paid off early. **This is what the current millage is covering.**



COSTS OF GRINDER PUMPS

PLEASE NOTE:

The costs of the grinder pump motor three years ago cost over \$5,000. Today it exceeds over \$7,000. Negligent use of the system causing a failure may become a liability to the homeowner.

PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING:

Seasonal Usage

Upon closing up your property for an extended period of time, please run and drain a bathtub of water three times to adequately purge your system. The Sewer Dept. offers knife valves (gate valves) for free.

These valves can be installed to your drainpipe to isolate your home from the sewer when not in use to avoid sewer backups.

Year-Round Usage

During extreme weather months of January–March, introducing ¼ cup of table salt (diluted) to the system 2-3 times per week will increase salinity and help prevent freeze-ups!