

## **Sanitary Sewer Cleaning and Televising Program**

The Department of Public Works will be cleaning and televising the sanitary sewer system throughout the Village. This process is an ongoing effort to keep our sewer system free and clear of debris - including sediment, grease, scale build-up, and in most cases tree roots that have infiltrated through joints or cracks in the pipe walls. By keeping the sewers clean, we reduce the chances of sewers backing up into private service lines that could result in sewage backing up into basements. Televising our sewers allows the Village to inspect and identify any defects or concerns in our system. Performing these activities in tandem creates the opportunity for the Village to maximize efficiencies and assure quality of our cleaning operation.

The cleaning component of the program consists of Village crews utilizing a pressurized water jet and vacuum system. This large and powerful piece of equipment sprays highly pressurized water through a series of nozzles aimed at scouring the inside of the pipes. In heavy root situations, additional root cutting blades clear the pipe. Debris generated by this process is flushed into the downstream manhole and collected through a suction hose.



During the cleaning process, sewer lines can develop air pressure or a partial vacuum. Usually any excess air pressure or vacuum will dissipate through the plumbing vents, but occasionally there are facilities with inadequate plumbing vents (i.e no vents, undersized vents, or obstructed vents). In these situations, air pressure could escape through the toilet, floor drains, sink, tub, or shower drains causing water to splash out. Vacuums can also develop that could draw the water out of the fixture traps causing an unpleasant odor. This is called "blow back".

### **What can I do to prevent "blow back" into my home during the cleaning process?**

We have found that the best way to minimize blow back is to cover all floor drains with plastic and place a weight on the plastic, cover all toilets with plastic and place the lid on the plastic, and for odor, run water into each drain to fill the traps. The actual cleaning process from manhole to manhole does not take long although you may see equipment in the area for extended periods of time due to the equipment set up and tear down. The cleaning that will affect your homes should not take longer than a few hours.

### **What to do if you experience "blow back"?**

Recovery from a "blow back" event is simply a matter of removing any debris and the cleaning of the floors, toilets, sinks, baths, or showers that may have been impacted. You may continue normal use. Sewage "blow back" events that involve only the discharge of water to walls or surfaces do not result in an immediate health risk. However, it is important that any sewage contaminated water , any resulting debris and surfaces that have come in contact with this water be promptly and thoroughly cleaned. This will require the removal of any debris, the cleaning of the surfaces with a soap solution and the disinfection of hard surfaces with a diluted household bleach/water solution. Regular household cleaning products are all that are needed. We recommend the use of rubber gloves. Never mix ammonia and chlorine products such as household bleach.

### **How will I know when the Village is cleaning the sewers in front of my house?**

The Village will be using a number of different mechanisms for information transfer. We will be utilizing our Village website ([www.bensenville.il.us](http://www.bensenville.il.us)), social media (Facebook and Twitter), moveable street signs ("Sewer Cleaning in this Area"), as well as our Code Red System. Of all these mechanisms, the Code Red system is anticipated to be the most productive. In order to take advantage of this system, we encourage you to confirm that your contact information is included in our database by visiting our website and searching for Code Red to sign up. We intend to program our calls to occur on Sunday evenings for the anticipated work the following week.

**WEATHER PERMITTING, SEWER CLEANING WILL TAKE  
THIS WEEK AT THE MAPPED LOCATIONS BELOW:**

