

STREETS/PARKS:

First of all, I would like to thank the crews for the exceptional work during the recent flooding event. The Street and Water Departments began work at three-o'clock in the morning clearing the streets of hazards and blocking off streets that were impassable. Also, a big thanks to the Police and Fire Departments for jumping in and doing whatever needed to be done. Anytime we have an event like this, everyone steps up and works together. Thank you.

There is still much work to be done as a result of the flooding. There are culverts all over town that will require cleaning. There are a few roads that were washed out that were temporarily repaired until we can get back to fix them more permanently. There are many, many truckloads of gravel that filled in the creeks and drainage areas that will need to be picked up and hauled off. Areas around culverts that were washed out will need to be filled in with clay and shot rock, and Dirt streets will need to be graded. So, if you live in an area that has damage, please be patient with us as we restore these areas.

WATER/SEWER:

We had a small disaster last week at our Barrington Lift Station. The crew was pulling a pump to clean out the rags that build up in the suction end causing a restriction in pumping capability. At this point I would like to ask our customers again, please do not put wipes that are advertised as “flushable” down the toilet. Just because you can flush them, doesn’t mean you should. This issue has become a major problem for the wastewater industry worldwide. Anyway, as they were about to get the pump out of the well, the cable on the hoist broke dropping the pump approximately 25’ to the bottom of the well. Fortunately, no one was injured and the damage to the piping was minimal. However, the pump was ruined. This particular pump is one of the original pumps that was installed when the lift station was constructed. It will be replaced with a new, more energy efficient model that has increased pumping capacity. The replacement cost for the pump that was destroyed is around \$45,000. We were able to purchase an equal but lesser-known brand name for \$14,000. We are not just taking a chance with the less expensive pump. We have had an identical pump in the station for the last two years, with no issues.