



President's Corner
September 2019

The recent emergency shut down of Well #3 has brought the topic of Western Springs water back into the limelight. This article addresses the repair of Well #3, as well as steps that staff and the Village Board are taking to improve our water delivery system.

Western Springs water is sourced primarily from aquifers deep underground. We have two deep wells - Wells #3 and #4 - which typically provide enough water to meet community demand year-round. Rarely, we must use the water sourced from Well #1 to meet demand. This happens when one of the deep wells is off-line. Well #1 is a shallow well, and because of that the water contains a higher level of iron and other minerals than the deeper wells. The water is safe to drink, but the higher mineral content results in hard water that may appear discolored.

At the beginning of August, Well #3 required an emergency shut down due to an unforeseen electrical failure caused by the submersible motor cable. Because of this, we are currently depending on some water sourced from Well #1. As part of the repair, Well #3 has received a thorough evaluation and routine maintenance. Well #3 was brought back online on August 30, and is in the process being tested to ensure that the water meets our high quality standards prior to distribution. Per IEPA standards, the water must pass two consecutive BacT tests before returning to normal distribution. Results of these tests, from an external lab, could take from a couple of days up to a week. We are hopeful that Well #3 will be online again at the end of the first week of September. At that time, we will be able to discontinue the use of Well #1.

Village Staff has worked tirelessly to minimize the disruption of this most recent shutdown. While the emergency response was definitely a group effort, special thanks goes to Water Plant Superintendent Erin Duffy who has worked diligently during the shutdown to avoid further delay, damage, and inconvenience.

In 2017, the Village Board decided that the water from Well #1 does not meet our aesthetic standards. While safe to drink, its hardness and potential discoloration is displeasing. Therefore, after extensive study and discussion, the Board adopted a plan that includes a low-interest IEPA loan to build a new deep well, Well #5. This new Well is projected to be online in late Spring of next year, and will build redundancy into our water distribution system such that, should one of the other deep wells go off-line, we will still have access to water that is sourced from deep aquifers and will not have the issues associated with the shallow well water.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this process. For more information on Western Springs water, and for tips on using hard water, please visit the water plant's webpage at: <https://wsprings.com/423/Water-Department> .

Alice Gallagher,
Village President