

HL Sewer Authority records inaccurate

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

While the Harveys Lake Sewer Authority searches for homes not connected to the borough sewer system in an attempt to locate the source of drinking water contamination, lake residents are asking why the authority does not know already.

Since early August, the sewer authority has found two homes, both in the area of Warden Place, that were not connected to the sewer system. The residents of at least one of these homes were unaware they were not connected, according to Executive Director Richard Boice. Boice said in early August that one resident was even paying a sewer bill, but was not hooked onto the system. Instead, he was dumping raw sewage into his sump and contaminating the drinking water wells around him, according to Boice.

William Mann, unofficial spokesman for lake residents, claims that

he attempted to view the sewer authority's records to see who was or was not hooked on to the system. The authority, according to Mann, had no such records.

The Post also attempted to view the records last month, but the records were not released.

"I will show we have records. Just come down and I will show you," Boice said Monday. Boice admitted the records were not very good, but he insisted the authority does have records.

Boice described the records as listing individual hook-ups in lateral locations. Boice said the records the authority has now indicate some homes as not being hooked-up when, in fact, they actually were connected to the sewer system.

"The inaccuracy of the records was a result of the 1976-77 sewer authority," Boice claimed. That sewer authority was in power when the sewer system was originally installed.

"Maybe these guys went out to inspect hook-ups and then returned to the building to record their findings. For some reason or another they forgot to mark in some of the connections," Boice explained. He stressed that the present sewer authority board, including himself, were not involved in the 1976-77 sewer authority.

"I do have a good indication of which homes are and are not connected from the records," Boice said. "But it is not 100 percent."

Monday, Boice tried to confirm the fact that the records exist by mentioning that the authority would need to know who is connected so they could bill customers.

Boice said he personally has been the target of public outrage since the contamination was found. "I have been getting a lot of heat over this thing and I do not know why," he said. "I have been out there, whether I am supposed to or not, trying to solve this problem."

Lake man offers to pay for water testing

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

The man who first discovered contamination in Harveys Lake drinking water is now offering to help those who cannot afford to test their own water. He says he will pay the fee for them.

William Mann, Warden Place, Harveys Lake, said he will pay the \$10 fee to have water tested at the Kirby Health Center, Wilkes-Barre, for residents who cannot afford the cost. However, he said he can only pay for a limited number of people.

"For those who definitely cannot afford the fee for testing, I will pay a limited number," Mann said Friday night.

For those residents interested, Mann has set up a method to arrange an agreement with him. "First they must get a sample bottle," Mann said. The bottle can be picked up at The Kirby Health Center, the Harveys Lake Borough Building, or from Mann himself.

"Next, the residents must take a sample of their drinking water," Mann explained. "Then leave it in the box I will leave marked

on my porch."

Mann asks people to call him prior to dropping of the samples. When called, Mann will tell the resident if he can accept their sample. "I cannot test the entire borough," Mann said. "This is only for those who truly cannot afford it."

Since last May, several homes around Harveys Lake have been tested for bacterial contamination. Results of the tests have shown several homes' drinking water contaminated up to 80 times the level considered safe to drink.

Mini-cameras may take place of dye testing

By SCOTT A. DAVIS
Post Staff

Dye-testing presently being done to find the source of bacterial contamination at Harveys Lake may soon be replaced with more advanced and efficient equipment, as the sewer authority looks into using special video cameras to examine the sewer lines.

Executive Director Richard Boice said Monday that the authority is in negotiations with P.S. & C. Sewer Systems Company to bring the camera to the lake. "We are just waiting for this guy to give us a cost," Boice said.

Boice explained that although dye-testing is a good test, the authority would like to bring in a more advanced, efficient testing technique. "Mann felt this was a good idea," Boice said, "and Mann is welcome to ride with us (when we do the testing)."

Boice would not offer a date the testing may begin, nor was an estimated cost available Monday.

Although not confirmed, it is believed the cameras will be put into the sewer system pipes and viewed on a monitor. The viewers will watch for possible problems in the system.

In the past, the authority has only been testing with dye, a practice that has resulted in severe criticism from local residents in the last week.

The most vocal opposition to the dye-testing was Warden Place resident William Mann, who is credited with discovering the contamination last May. Mann said he has spoken to an environmental scientist and a member of the Department of Environmental Resources, and both agreed that dye-testing was not as efficient as several alternative tests. Some alternatives Mann suggested were sound-testing, pressure-testing, and testing with the cameras.

Lake resident requests Casey's help

Editor's Note: This letter was written by Harveys Lake resident William Mann. The letter will be sent by Mann to Governor Robert Casey to inform his office of drinking water contamination problems at the lake. Copies of the letter will also be sent to Senator Charles Lemmond and Representative George Hasey.

Dear Governor Casey,

Upon the advice of Congressman Kanjorski's Office, I am writing this letter on behalf of the residents of Harveys Lake, Penna. The great majority of people at Harveys Lake have private wells. They are not on a municipal water system. As of last May, the Warden Place section of the lake began to show a high degree of contamination. Eventually about twelve wells at Warden Place were made unfit for drinking water and several people came down with health problems, some that may have lasting results. Since last May, there has been widespread testing of wells and a large number have been found to have high levels of contamination. The result of this testing can be confirmed by Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre.

We have a sewer system and a sewer authority here at the lake. All residents who have sewer lines

in front of their homes are required to be connected to the lines and abandon the old sumps and septic tanks. Despite the fact that the sewer system was set up twelve years ago, some people have not seen fit to connect to the sewer lines since its establishment. To complicate the problem, the sewer authority has absolutely no records as to who is not on the sewer line.

There is also some question about the condition of the sewer system. There is some evidence to indicate that some of the contamination may be from the faulty sewer facilities.

The Department of Environmental Resources did a random check on five wells. Three tested positive with contamination. One of the three came up with a fecal coliform count of 200. To demonstrate just how high this is, consider the following comparison. Harveys Lake water has a fecal count of about 17, which is allowed for swimming. The count of 200 in a private home is well over ten times the level of the lake water. This home has three children in it. In short, his water would not even be safe for swimming.

A number of people have been forced to install a very expensive ultra-violet system on their wells. I put this system on when my well tested 80+. Unfortunately, the great majority of people cannot afford this system. It is not right that these people be condemned to a lesser health standard because the source of this problem has not yet been found. We need help. Our sewer authority has not yet been able to solve the problem. They seem to lack the necessary resources to find the source of contamination. The D.E.R. has acted in an advisory capacity and has denied any active help since they lack jurisdiction over private wells.

In order to document my statements, please contact the Kirby Health Center in Wilkes-Barre where the testing has been done and the D.E.R. in Wilkes-Barre. You may also wish to discuss this matter with the Harveys Lake Municipal Authority.

Please give this matter your consideration.

Sincerely,

William Mann

SPORTS

Time growing short for hunter ed courses

Time is drawing short for first time hunters to receive their certificate for successfully completing a Hunter/Trapper Education Course.

Wildlife Conservation Officers and Hunter/Trapper Education Instructors are now busy scheduling courses. Rather than get caught in the squeeze and at the last minute expect someone to bail you out, register now. Each year last minute requests are made when courses are not available. The time is NOW for certification.

This is also a reminder to those hunters who are making plans for out of state hunts. Make sure you check the laws regarding proof of hunter education training. If for

some reason you do not possess a Hunter Education Training Certificate, it would be wise to take the Pennsylvania Hunter/Trapper Education Course.

All first time hunters and trappers who have not held a hunting license issued in Pennsylvania or another state or country, or does not possess a training certificate, shall be required to attain certification in an accredited Hunter/Trapper Education Program before making application for a hunting license.

Also, no resident or non-resident furtaker license shall be issued to a person unless applicant presents to the issuing agent any one of the following: Evidence the

applicant has held a trapping or furtaker license in Pennsylvania or another state or country; a certificate of training; an affidavit signed by the applicant on the furtaker license application that the applicant completed a voluntary trapping course sponsored by the Commission, or that the applicant has previously hunted or trapped furbearers within the last five years. These provisions shall not apply to persons under 12 who trap furbearers under direct supervision of an adult licensed furtaker at least 18 years of age.

For additional information call the Northeast Region Office, Dallas, Pennsylvania at 717 675-1143 or 717 675-1144.

Lady Knights stop Coughlin

After playing to a 2-2 tie in overtime with Wyoming Seminary, the Lake-Lehman girls field hockey team rebounded to defeat Coughlin 5-0 Friday at the Lady Knights field.

Trudy Wandel scored a penalty stroke with only a minute left in the first half to give the Black Knights a 1-0 lead. In the second half, the Lady Knights scored on three penalty strokes with Wendy Skibitsky hitting two and Tracy Wargo knocking in the third. Jen Cook scored the fifth goal for the Lake-Lehman girls on an assist by Becky Sorber.

In the Wyoming Seminary game played Wednesday, Skibitsky scored both goals for Lake-Lehman and Seminary's Liz Wideman scored two for her team. The score was 1-1 at the end of the first half and 2-2 at the end of the regular game time.

The Lady Knights took the lead first when Skibitsky scored on an assist by Michelle Naugle with under three minutes remaining in the half. With less

than five seconds left in the half, Wideman scored for the Black Knights off a pass from Jen Krincek.

Both Skibitsky and Wideman scored unassisted in the second half and Skibitsky missed on a penalty stroke which hurt the Knights. Both goalies turned in outstanding performances with Knight Becky James having nine saves and Sem's Janelle Kellman having seven.

Megan Kozemchak and Becky Sorber played great defense for Lake-Lehman.

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