

# **PRESS RELEASE**

## **VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF, IL**

40 E. Center Avenue  
Lake Bluff, IL 60044

Phone: 847-234-0774  
Website: [www.lakebluff.org](http://www.lakebluff.org)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 9/30/2014**

**From:** Brandon Stanick  
Asst. to the Village Administrator  
847-234-0774

**Contact:** George Russell  
Village Engineer  
847-234-0774

### ***SMOKE TESTING OF SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS IN LAKE BLUFF'S EAST TERRACE AND BATH & TENNIS NEIGHBORHOODS BEGINS MID-OCTOBER***

During and summer storm events, the sanitary sewer systems in the East Terrace and Bath & Tennis Club areas are subject to significant flows due to rainwater entering the sanitary sewer system. The Village has hired the RJN Group, Inc to smoke test approximately 16,000 feet of sanitary sewers, and to perform manhole evaluations, and exterior property evaluations during smoke testing in order to identify sources of stormwater into the Village's sanitary sewer system.

Smoke testing of the sanitary sewer systems in the East Terrace and Bath & Tennis Club areas of the Village will begin approximately mid-October. Smoke testing is used to detect inflow sources such as roof leaders, cellar, yard and area drains, foundation drains, abandoned building sewers, faulty connections, illegal connections, and storm water drainage system cross connections. It can also detect structural damages and leaking joints in sewer pipes and overflow points in sewer systems.

The smoke that comes out of the vent stacks on houses or holes in the ground is nontoxic, harmless, odorless and does not create a fire hazard. Lake Bluff Police and Fire Departments are aware of the areas and the daily schedule for the smoke testing activities which will occur between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

RJN Group personnel are uniformed staff, carry identification badges, and operate out of vehicles with RJN Group signage. Homeowners do not need to be home, and at no time will field crews need to enter the residence. Field inspectors will be noticeably documenting the testing, taking photos and measuring distances so defects may be found at a later date and repaired.

Smoke blowers are placed on manholes and smoke is blown through the sanitary sewer system. Anywhere the smoke exists, there is potential for stormwater to enter the sewer system. Residents in areas that will be smoke tested will receive a letter at least one week in advance of the testing, as well as a door hanger 24 to 72 hours in advance of smoke testing. The information gained from the testing will be used to improve the quality of the wastewater collection system.

To prepare for smoke testing, drain traps should always be filled with about 3 cups of water to prevent smoke from entering the building. About 3 cups of water should be poured in floor and sink drains, filling the traps to prevent smoke from entering the home. If smoke does enter, the resident should consult a licensed plumber because if harmless smoke can enter through faulty plumbing, the potential exists for dangerous sewer gases to also enter the home. Residents should contact a member of the smoke testing crew working in the area if smoke enters a building.

For special assistance or more information, contact Catherine Buckley, Project Manager, RJN Group at 630-682-4700 ext. 383 or Lake Bluff Village Engineer George Russell at 847-234-0774.

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