

# VILLAGE OF SMITHVILLE

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THE VILLAGE OF SMITHVILLE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

August 11, 2016

TO: Village Sanitary Sewer System Users

FROM: Smithville Village Council

Re: Backflow Valve Grant Agreement

The Smithville Village Council has approved a Sewer Backflow Valve Grant Agreement for devices installed after August 1, 2012. The agreement provides for a \$250.00 reimbursement to help off-set the cost of the backflow valve.

The grant agreement, available at village hall, specifies the terms and conditions to qualify for the reimbursement. If you are a property owner in an area having experienced problems in the past, you may want to consider the purchase and installation of a back-flow valve to help prevent future problems.

The Board of Public Affairs continues to inspect and seal the sewer collection system to help prevent future problems. Although this is an ongoing project, it may not be adequate to prevent problems in extreme conditions.

Tom Poulson  
Council President

Kyle Krownapple  
Board of Public Affairs President

## SEWER BACKFLOW VALVE GRANT AGREEMENT

WHEREAS, The Village of Smithville (hereinafter the "Village") has on occasions experienced high flows in the sanitary sewer due to excess water and,

WHEREAS, The Village of Smithville sewer plant is located in the Sugar Creek flood plain and,

WHEREAS, some Village homeowners are situated close to the flood plain and have little fall into the sanitary sewer and have experienced sewer back up due to excess flows.

NOW, THEREFORE, The Village of Smithville will permit and encourage the installation of backflow valves in drains that have experienced repeated backflow conditions and the village will reimburse part of the cost of the backflow valve by way of a special, limited grant ("Grant") under the following conditions:

### A. Eligibility

1. This Agreement only applies to valves installed after January 1, 2012. The assistance is provided to Village homeowners with basement connections with less than 2% (12") grade differential between their lateral and the sewer main crown. The Grant is available only to single family homeowners.
2. The number of reimbursements is limited to the allocated Grant budget amount of \$2,500.00 in any given year. The program can be canceled at anytime at the discretion of the Village council or the Board of Public Affairs.
3. The Village homeowner must provide proof of a sewer line back-up due to extreme flow conditions. It does not apply to back-ups caused by a clog in the line or surface water entering the structure.
4. The Village homeowner must have down spouts, sump pumps and footer drains tested to verify they are not connected to the sanitary sewer before Grant approval is granted. If any of the aforementioned are in violation these in-flow sources must be removed at the Village homeowner's expense before the Agreement is executed. Applicants must show proof of testing or request the Village make the test. If the run-off drains are not removed and the backflow valve is placed ahead of the run-off drains, it will backup into the basement.
5. Grant applications and Agreements may only be executed once per homeowner address.
6. The Village homeowner must obtain prior approval from the Village and sign this Agreement before installation to be eligible for reimbursement.

## B. Installation

1. Applicants must choose a valve in a size to fit the diameter of the lateral line. If the lateral is not the size of any commercial backflow valves the diameter of the lateral must be changed to fit the valve assembly.
2. Applicants must determine how the sanitary sewer drains and lateral line are designed before deciding where the backflow valve is to be located. Applicants need to be assured that they know where the basement drain is attached to the lateral so the backflow valve will protect the basement.
3. Valve assembly should be of a type that can be removed for cleaning and maintenance from the surface of the ground.
4. The valve is to be installed on the Village homeowner's private property outside of the sewer line right-of-way by a qualified contractor or plumber.
5. The Applicant is responsible to choose a back flow valve and a qualified installer. The Village does not endorse any back flow products or recommend any installers. The Village is not responsible for the quality of the products or the installation and can not be held liable for the equipment, installation, maintenance or failures under any circumstances.
6. The Village utility department must inspect the connection once the valve is placed on the lateral line to assure no infiltration is possible and to make note of the valve location.
7. Applicants must submit a copy of the bills proving the valve has been installed upon completion.
8. The Village will reimburse the Village homeowner in the maximum amount of \$250.00 to help off-set the cost of the backflow valve only. The Village has no responsibility to pay a supplier or contractor directly for any products or services.

## C. Maintenance and Operations

1. The backflow valve is not a cure-all in gravity feed systems but it is a preventive measure when extremely heavy flows cause a back pressure allowing the water to flow in the opposite direction. This condition is generally found in areas where minimal grade changes produce a very slow flow. The Village is not responsible for any operation or maintenance costs now or in the future for this valve.
2. The Village does not warranty or guarantee the reliability or effectiveness of any of these devices.
3. The backflow device can fail due to any number of reasons associated with age, improper operation or maintenance. The valve should be inspected at least annually.
4. **The Village issues this warning to any homeowner who cleans their lateral line due to slow running drains or tree roots.** The process of sending a device down a lateral line to clear an obstruction may damage the inline backflow valve.

The damage will occur as the cleaning device is being removed from the line. The cleaning device may hook, bend or break the valve as it is being removed. For this reason, it is recommended that the backflow valve be removed for routine maintenance.

5. The homeowner also acknowledges the in-house sanitary sewer plumbing can not be used once the backflow valve is activated. The plumbing becomes available once the backflow pressure is abated and the valve is opened.
6. The Village is not liable for any damage to the backflow valve in the course of main line cleaning and inspection. The process of main line maintenance uses high velocity water jets which can increase line pressure and cause a backflow condition.

The undersigned Applicant hereby certifies that he/she has read and understands the foregoing conditions, limitations, and maintenance requirements and recommendations as outlined above. Please note that Applicants are required to obtain prior approval and submit the proper installation documents prior to the receipt of the Grant as noted above.

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Homeowner Signature

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BPA President

Name:

Address:

Date Applied:

Date Installed: