

April, 2011

**Memo from the CITY OF GRIMES, IA WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT**

**PLEASE READ**

The City of Grimes has contracted with a company named ACCU-JET to clean and root-cut the City's sanitary sewers. The purpose is to improve the sewer's performance and significantly reduce the chance for future sewer backups and related problems. This is part of a three year plan that will begin this year in the older portions of the city.

**CLEANING WILL BE DONE IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

**North of Hwy. 44 from NE Main east to Hwy 141  
South of Hwy.44 from SE Main east to SE Trailridge**

**WE ARE GOING TO BE CLEANING THE SEWERS IN THESE  
NIEGHBORHOODS ON ONE OF THE FOLLOWING DAYS:**

**April 27<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (excluding weekends)**

In order to clean the sewer, a high-pressure water stream is introduced into the sewer line. This high-pressure water stream loosens and removes debris that is in the sewer line. The debris is then moved downstream and removed from the sewer with a vacuum.

This cleaning process causes a vacuum in the sewer and creates pressure. These forces can create some challenges. Though it will not affect most buildings, **some buildings may be** affected. Those buildings that have inadequate or partially blocked drain vents may experience some challenges. A vacuum may be created because of the poor ventilation, causing "P-traps" (the little S shaped bend in the pipe under sinks and drains) to be sucked dry. Should you notice a sewer smell resulting from this, run a little water in your drains to refill the P-traps.

**We would suggest that each home/business owner do the following to minimize the impact that the poor ventilation may have on your building: 1) shut the water valve off to your toilet(s) (this will keep the toilet from running in the event that your "flapper" valve in your toilet tank opens and doesn't shut correctly 2) put the toilet seat(s) down, you may want to place a towel between the lid and the bowl and tape the lid to the bowl. This will minimize any effect that water may have if pressure builds in your lines 3) cover floor drains with car mats and place a heavy object on them to hold them in place on the days that the sewer cleaning will be done in your area. This will minimize any possible splashing of the P-trap water in homes that are poorly vented. Please take these precautions during cleaning.**

You may call *Mark Devine* at 202-6355 should you have any questions. His office hours are 7:00 AM to 3:30 PM Monday thru Friday.  
Thank you for your help and cooperation.