

Dear Resident,

We are sending this letter to serve as an important update notice for the ongoing water treatment system repairs and upgrade.

After discussions with the IEPA, we discovered that we could apply for an emergency permit to replace our water filtration system due to its poor condition and the long lead time to get replacement equipment. This emergency permit was approved and, by-passes all the red tape, which will finally allow us to move forward. We have a target date of the 3rd week of June to replace our softeners with the new Culligan system.

Due to the deteriorating condition of the plant, we also need to replace the main shutoff valves entering and exiting the plant. This will require the water to be shut off and the tower drained to prevent backflow from flooding the building.

We understand the inconvenience of this, but it will allow us to accomplish several overdue tasks. The plan is to have the water turned off for only part of a day. Water service would be restored as soon as possible using untreated water from the well, which would occur for 1 to 2 days. The new softeners should be online after that time, and fully treated water service restored.

The basic timeline is as follows:

Day 1

- Well is turned off and water tower is drained.
- Main shutoffs are replaced, and a new flow meter is installed.
- New shutoffs are added to allow the removal of the current softeners after the water is turned back on.
- Water tower hatch is removed, and the tower is inspected.
- Pneumatic (air) system for the tower will be tested for function.
- Miscellaneous repairs will be made to water supply lines to the Village Hall building facilities.

- Water is turned back on. (Boil order in effect. Residents are cautioned that the radium levels will be slightly above guidelines but there should be little risk for drinking or cooking due to the short term use.)
 - See this article for more info; villageofhopewell.com/radium/
- Old softeners will be drained and removed from the water plant, and the floor will be cleaned.

Day 2

- Culligan will begin installing new softeners

Day 3

- Finish installation and configuration of the system
- Provide training for the water operator
- Filtered water service is restored to the Village.

Day 4

- Boil order should be lifted based on test samples.

All of that work will be done for less than \$100,000 rather than the previous plan's outrageous cost of \$1.9 million.

We encourage everyone to stock up on water beforehand and we will have a water truck available at Village Hall.

Hopefully, the work can be finished faster, but there is always the chance of unexpected problems that can delay the project. We will send updates frequently as the work commences. Everyone is encouraged to sign up for village updates through the phone alert system. Please contact clerk@villageofhopewell.com or call 309-274-5145 to sign up.

Future work planned in 2025

The water tower will be cleaned internally and repaired as needed, which should not interrupt water service. We hope the pneumatic (air) system can be restored which should fix pressure issues and allow proper hydrant flushing to be done. The current air compressor is oil lubricated which is no longer allowed and will be replaced.



The sand filter for our softener discharge will be installed to meet IEPA discharge requirements.

Beyond 2025

- Revised plans are being created to install the additional well and a backup generator.
- We are looking to switch from an elevated water tower design to a ground-based tank with pressure generating pumps instead. This should meet our requirements at a much lower cost and reduce our long-term maintenance costs in the future.
- Investigate adding additional water plant components to improve water quality to the Village.

Thank you for your understanding as we continue to work to make these improvements.

Sincerely,

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Village of Hopewell Trustee