



Date: June 23, 2016

To: Grayslake Residents

From: Village of Grayslake

Re: Lead in Water Information

Recent news reporting has focused on the water quality issues in Flint, Michigan and the potential health problems from this situation. Reports indicate that in Flint's case the problems arose when the city switched its water source and this treatment approach, along with other water system factors, caused very high levels of lead in their water. These levels are reported to be well above safe water standards. If nothing else, this attention reaffirms the public health importance of ensuring that water quality standards are maintained by public water systems. This is a responsibility the Village has taken very seriously over the years.

In Grayslake we are fortunate to have Lake Michigan as our source of water. The lake is considered one of the best water sources in terms of water quality in the world. The water you use in Grayslake is supplied to our local system by the Central Lake County Joint Action Water Agency (CLCJAWA). This agency, of which Grayslake is a charter member, has received numerous awards for its water treatment processes and the resulting high water quality.

Once this Lake Michigan water is received from CLCJAWA by our local system it is pumped through 105 miles of public water mains. Even though Grayslake is 121 years old much of its water system was built after 1990. Unlike most of the country that has long neglected its infrastructure, in Grayslake almost all of the water mains built before 1990 were replaced between 1988 and 2005. This ensures that our water transmission pipes are made of materials that meet the most current construction standards designed to meet water safety requirements.

Water pumped through the publicly owned transmission mains travels from these government owned pipes to privately owned water services that run between the municipal water mains to each home, business, school or other building. In older areas these services and some plumbing fixtures were sometimes made of lead materials. These homeowner or business owned lead services or fixtures can, in some cases, cause high lead levels in water consumed in these homes and businesses even though the water in the public system is in compliance with applicable regulations.

In Grayslake we have 6,911 water customers. Even though Grayslake is over a century old, most homes were built after 1985 so only a small percentage of water customers are likely to have private water services or plumbing fixtures with lead content.

*Mayor: Rhett Taylor*  
*Trustees: Bruce R. Bassett ~ Amy Edwards ~ Shawn M. Vogel ~ Ronald L. Jarvis ~ Kevin D. Waldenstrom ~ Elizabeth Davies*  
*Village Clerk: Cynthia E. Lee*

While records do not exist for construction before 1970, we can estimate that between 300 and 400 water customers (of our 6,911 customers) may have these privately owned lead services or plumbing fixtures. This number includes 62 locations identified by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) with lead services. We estimate the remaining number primarily through the age of homes/businesses and/or when the subdivisions were approved. Generally, if your home was built after 1970 you are unlikely to have a lead service or plumbing fixtures. In our area the use of lead service pipes was greatly reduced after 1950 or so when non-lead materials became available. Please visit our website ([www.villageofgrayslake.com](http://www.villageofgrayslake.com)) for a listing of the 62 IEPA locations and addresses or other locations that may have lead services or fixtures based on the age of the structures. There is also a list of the years when each Grayslake subdivision was approved.

Please know that beyond the IEPA list, the Village, like most communities, does not have verified information. These lists are not confirmed. Locations on the list may not have lead services or fixtures and locations not on these lists may have lead services or fixtures. If you want to confirm your water service material or if you have plumbing fixtures that are made of lead, contacting a plumber is your next step to do this. They can review your piping to determine your individual situation.

Although almost all of our residents are not impacted by private lead service lines or plumbing fixtures, the Village is required to conduct testing at 30 of the 62 IEPA lead service locations every three years. If just 4 of these locations (0.578% of our water customers) have lead levels above the IEPA threshold the Village must send a notice to all its customers on lead levels even though most of our customers are unlikely to be at any risk. This notice can be alarming because it discusses the water system as a whole even though the problem of lead content is not a system-wide issue in Grayslake. The issue of lead levels in Grayslake water relates to those individual homes with lead services or plumbing fixtures. This testing will occur this fall. If just four homes have high lead levels you will receive the IEPA required notice. Please visit our website ([www.villageofgrayslake.com](http://www.villageofgrayslake.com)) for a copy of this notice form.

In addition to the address information provided on our website a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) on lead in water has been posted. If you need additional information please contact the Village's Request for Service system at [www.villageofgrayslake.com/r4s](http://www.villageofgrayslake.com/r4s).

Grayslake has a high quality water source that receives award-winning water treatment that is delivered to our homes and businesses through an up-to-date municipal water system. Most of our water customers were built after 1985 and do not have private lead services or plumbing fixtures. All of this makes it very unlikely that Grayslake would encounter the large scale lead problems being experienced in Flint, Michigan.