



Office of the Mayor

Village of South Lebanon

99 N. High Street, South Lebanon, Ohio 45065

513-494-2296 fax: 513-494-1656

www.southlebanonohio.org

February 11, 2011

An Open Letter to the Community, Public Agencies, Volunteers, etc.:

Please allow me to take a moment to address the recent water emergency experienced by our village water system. A system-wide depressurization was caused by the failure of a 50-plus year old water main, with consequent water loss deep under the ground into sand and gravel. Unlike typical main breaks, no evidence was visible and the system-wide pressure loss occurred.

Emergency measures were implemented immediately--mobilization of our own crew of course, but also appropriate donated mutual aid. The response was immediate and gratifying, including the Greater Cincinnati Water Works, Warren County and the City of Lebanon providing personnel and equipment; Warren County Emergency Management Agency to mobilize temporary shower facilities, drinking water and coordination with the Red Cross; Union Township Fire & Rescue as a distribution point for drinking water supplied by the Village and Township, also filling bath tubs and toilets; Warren County Community Services providing drinking water at the HEAP satellite office; coordination with Ohio EPA drinking water personnel; village coordination with the Countryside YMCA and Kings Local School District to provide potential locations for showers; the village provided portable restroom facilities; Brandstetter Carroll, Village Engineers; Neiman Plumbing, contractors; and dissemination of information updates via the village website and County-wide 211 phone service.

The goals were two fold, to re-establish sufficient water pressure for as many customers as possible, and to locate and repair the location of the problem(s). Between Monday and Thursday, individual sections of the system were isolated and determined to be sound, additional water valves installed, the main break depth and location identified by sophisticated Greater Cincinnati Water Works equipment and repaired by the village crew, and the system re-pressurized while village and mutual aid personnel monitored pressure gauges to ensure the system was stabilized. By Saturday afternoon, testing determined that no bacteria were present and the required boil advisory was lifted.

In closing, I want to take the opportunity to thank the community for their patience and outpouring of support, each public agency for their immediate and unconditional response, the village staff and the many, many volunteers involved with bringing this situation to a successful conclusion.

Sincerely,

James D. Smith, Mayor