

Several weeks ago the Village Board approved an engineering services agreement for the design of a water main extension to serve a portion of the Pleasantdale subdivision. Pleasantdale is the largest unincorporated area within Woodridge's planning area and was identified through the budget process as a candidate for extension of sewer or water service in the coming year. Recent requests from a few Pleasantdale residents about the possibility of receiving Lake Michigan water jump-started our plans to complete engineering analysis for extension of water main.

A survey crew started work the day after the agreement was approved and immediately drew the attention of Pleasantdale residents. Public Works staff has fielded calls from approximately twenty residents inquiring about the work, with most of them expressing concerns about annexation. We have consistently informed callers (and a few e-mailers) that while Pleasantdale falls within the Woodridge planning area (in accordance with our boundary agreements with Lemont and Darien), the Village has no plans to force annexation. We further advised that when utilities are desired in the subdivision, Woodridge will be the provider of water and sewer services (via the agreement with Illinois-American).

We advised that in response to recent inquiries from some Pleasantdale residents, we were beginning the necessary engineering work to determine if, and how and at what cost water could be provided to some or all of the subdivision. In response to caller's concerns about annexation, we advised that if and when water main is extended, only those properties wishing to connect to the water main would be required to enter into an annexation agreement. Those residents not desiring the water would not be compelled to connect nor to annex. We used as an example our recent experience with Suburban Estates and the deferral of annexation for a period of ten years.

While we are aware that there has been a strong reaction from some residents to our surveying activity, the management staff has taken an approach to assemble and then provide to residents a more complete picture once the engineering work is complete. Without that work, we can not provide information about cost, location of water main, schedule, etc. While there is some misinformation out there, our personal contacts with over twenty residents has mostly proven positive and has likely served to encourage some people to take a wait and see approach once we can deliver a more complete picture. We expect the engineering work to be complete in September.