



**NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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SEWER BACKUP AT EAST END PUMP STATION CAUSED BY IMPROPERLY DISPOSED WASTE

PURCELLVILLE, Va. March 18, 2016 — On March 17, 2016, around 5:00 pm, the Town was notified that the Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management (DFREM) received a call that a Town resident had reported a hazardous waste spill. Upon arrival, DFREM along with Town staff determined that a sanitary sewer overflow had occurred from a manhole adjacent to the East End Pump Station.

As the fire department deployed booms to contain the overflow, the Town's staff cleared the blockage in under 30 minutes. This joint effort minimized the impact to the environment. Staff calculated that less than 1,000 gallons had left the manhole. Unfortunately small quantities of liquid (supernatant) did reach the adjacent creek. There were no solids observed by staff in or around the creek.

Staff reached out to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) by phone and email on Thursday evening. Staff will continue to work with DEQ on any reports and notices required. There was no threat to the community from the overflow.

When investigating the pump station and auxiliary equipment, it was determined that a large mass of wipes and other debris had clogged the grinder pump which in turn created the backup. Staff conducted their routine inspection of the facility earlier that day and all equipment was clear and functioning properly.

Over the years, flushable wipes have been a serious issue in the water reclamation industry. It is paramount that citizens and businesses understand the negative impacts of flushing improper materials down drains and toilets. The following materials should **NEVER** be flushed down a toilet:

- Disinfecting/cleaning wipes
- Baby Wipes
- Diapers
- Paper towels
- Rags, towels, washcloths
- Towelettes

- Kitty litter
- Needles, syringes and other medical waste
- Toilet seat covers
- Feminine hygiene products
- Dental floss
- Mop/cleaning brush refills
- Medications
- Fats, Oils, and Grease

Besides clogging the Town's infrastructure, improperly disposed waste can also clog a homeowner's or business owner's pipes, which can cause damage and is the responsibility of the property owner to fix and clean up.

The Town of Purcellville, Virginia

Purcellville is an award-winning town of nearly 8,500 residents located in Loudoun County, approximately 40 miles west of Washington, DC. It has been honored for its green initiatives, most recently with the prestigious Siemens Sustainability Award for Small Communities. The Town has an elected Mayor and six Town Council members. Once a stop along the W&OD rail line, Purcellville has maintained its historic old-town feel through the restoration and maintenance of its many downtown structures, reflecting the Victorian architecture popular during the early 1900s. Today, Purcellville is the economic hub of western Loudoun County and a popular weekend destination for antiquing, entertainment, farmer's markets, wineries, breweries, distilleries and restaurants. More info at www.purcellvilleva.gov.

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