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Jones, Terry <terry.jones@dnr.iowa.gov>

1607 South 14th Street Clinton Iowa

2 messages

Perry Thompson <perrythompson@cityofclintoniowa.us> Fri, Aug 10, 2018 at 8:01 AM
To: "terry.jones@dnr.iowa.gov" <terry.jones@dnr.iowa.gov>
Cc: Bob Milroy <bobmilroy@cityofclintoniowa.us>

Terry,

On August 8, 2018, at approximately 10:30 AM, I visited Ms. Brenda Mohr at 1607 South 14th Street. She was claiming that there was feces in her garage from the overflow rains that we have been getting, causing the sewers to back up. I took a pic of her garage (attached) but did not see any of the feces she was talking about. She then asked me if I could smell it. I told her that I could not. All I could detect was dampness and mildew. She told me that men over 40 years old lose their ability to smell proteins. But, I did not see, nor did I smell the presence of feces, though there did appear to be some bird droppings on the floor.

Next, she took me outside to show me where all of the water was coming down her hill and washing out her garage. I saw several crevices, all of which were downstream of her property, and looked to be cutting across her neighbor's property. There may be some water that will run down the hill into her yard, but there are no erosion patterns, other than the ones in the hillside, that I can find. And the ones in the hillside lead downhill from her property. She then showed me the "water lines" on the back of her garage. There were dirt spatter marks about 2' high, but the ground on the outside of the garage was bare earth for a couple of feet. I know through experience at my own house that rain drops will splatter mud up a couple of feet, especially if it is a hard rain. I explained this to her, but she was adamant that I was wrong. I showed her where the ground around her garage has built up over the years so that the elevation of the soil is above the bottom of the siding, and most likely the sill plate. So any moisture in the area would "wick" into the garage.

Her claim that the sewers are backing up causing her grief with feces is unwarranted. The sewer lines in question are separated sewers. The storm sewer may overflow, but the sanitary sewer is independent of the storm, and, therefore, not affected by the storm sewer overflow. I tried to point that out to her, but she wasn't buying it. I have since had both the sanitary and storm sewers televised, and found nothing wrong with either.

There is an erosion problem affecting her neighbors up the hill from her, causing some crevices, and problems with some fence support posts. But, these are not her problems. I know that the storm water problem is under investigation by the city's engineering department.

Please let me know if you need any more information.

Respectfully,

Perry L. Thompson

Water Quality Assistant Superintendent

City of Clinton, Iowa

Phone: 563.243.4064 X106

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1607 South 14th Street 001.jpg
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Jones, Terry <terry.jones@dnr.iowa.gov> Mon, Aug 13, 2018 at 9:29 AM
To: Perry Thompson <perrythompson@cityofclintoniowa.us>

Thanks for the information Perry.
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