



For Immediate Release  
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## City Conducts Annual Testing of Sewer System

Harrisonburg, Va. – The city of Harrisonburg’s Public Utilities Department will soon begin its annual testing of the sanitary sewer system.

Starting next week, the testing will take place in the following areas:

West Market Street  
South Dogwood Drive  
South Willow Street  
Brooke Avenue  
Academy Street  
South High Street  
Old South High Street

Chesapeake Avenue  
West Water Street  
West Bruce Street  
Veterans Memorial Drive  
Chestnut Drive  
West Grace Street  
Dixie Avenue

Beech Street  
Ohio Avenue  
New York Avenue  
Elmwood Drive  
Roosevelt Street  
Christy Lane

Crews with the Public Utilities Department will release a non-toxic and non-staining test smoke into the city’s manholes, which will travel through the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of this testing is to detect any breaks or leaks in the city’s system and make appropriate repairs, if necessary.

The city has a total of 190 miles of sewer lines and a section of those lines are tested each year.

Some smoke will be seen being released from rooftop plumbing vents, which is an indication of a properly installed plumbing system.

### Tips for residents:

- Pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers, and tubs, which will prevent sewer gases or smoke from entering a home or business.
- If the non-toxic smoke enters a residence or business, this is a sign of a defect in the plumbing. When this occurs, there is no need to contact emergency services. Open a window or door for ventilation, note the location of the smoke, and contact a qualified plumber.
- Anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions should not stay in a building where smoke has entered as a precautionary measure.

This work is expected to be completed over the next two weeks. Anyone with questions may contact the Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959.



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