



## City of Shawano

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ON DECEMBER 28, 2020 CITY OF SHAWANO – LEAD EXCEEDANCE

The City of Shawano Public Works Water Utility Department is required to complete water sample testing on a biannual basis in several homes throughout our community to continually ensure the safety of our drinking water. These tests are completed by obtaining water samples from inside residential homes. It is possible, that if a home is older (built prior to 1975), and contains either lead water services and/or interior lead plumbing, that the test results could show an exceedance of lead in the water, even though the source well water is free of lead. A water service line, as stated above, is the underground water line that connects the water main located under the roadway to the interior plumbing of the structure.

During the 2020 sample testing, the City of Shawano completed thorough testing on twenty different properties. Upon completion of these tests, three isolated lead exceedances were detected at residential locations. The City proceeded to then extensively test its source water at the wells, with no lead being detected from these secondary tests. Therefore, they were able to confidently determine that the lead exceedances were coming from either the public or private side of the lead water services into the residential location or possibly from lead piping or fixtures within the residences.

The City of Shawano Public Works Water Department has applied for funding to begin actively replacing the public and private lead water services throughout the City during the 2021 construction season. Once funding has been secured, the service line replacements can be made at no cost to the homeowner. Funding for this replacement project may only be available for a short time and any future lead water service line replacement costs could be responsibility of the homeowner.

The City is asking for the communities help in removing these lead lines from our neighborhoods. If a resident has not had their water service inspected by the city's Water Department and live in an older home (built prior to 1975), they should contact the Water Department as soon as possible at 715-526-3512 to have a technician come and inspect the type of water service going in to their home.

A letter and tri-fold informational pamphlet will be sent to city residents within the December utility billing (to be mailed at the beginning of January) to provide additional information. To obtain answers to other questions related to the City of Shawano finding these isolated occurrences of elevated levels of lead, please call Shawano Public Works at 715-526-3512 or visit our website [www.cityofshawano.com](http://www.cityofshawano.com) for more information.

City of Shawano – Department of Public Works