

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: August 2025

Water Samples for Lead and Copper: The WV Department of Health requires several sampling, testing, and reporting procedures for the water produced by the Rowlesburg Water Works. Of course, all this is to help protect you, our customers, from any contaminant which may potentially be harmful to your health.

Recently, some of you have received a telephone call from Kim Felton, our clerk, asking that you cooperate with the Town in collecting water samples from your tap or faucet. I think that everyone who was asked agreed to volunteer and collect the water sample.

The purpose of the water sample collection is to test for any lead or copper in the Rowlesburg Water Works' production and/or distribution system. So, for the protection of the health and safety of all water customers in Rowlesburg, the volunteers who collect the water samples from their faucets are undertaking a valuable service. The WV Department of Health wants to know whether our Water Works is releasing any lead or copper through the water distribution system: consequently, sampling and testing at the point of use is a way to answer that question.

When the time comes, the volunteers who have agreed to collect the water samples from their faucets will be given the sample bottle and a set of simple instructions on when and how to collect the samples. A **BIG** thank you to these volunteers.

Following Dumb Rules: It appears that some of our citizens have the attitude that the Town's ordinances are dumb and do not apply to them or they only follow the ones that they like or the ones that make sense to them. This is true, whether it's the requirement to get a building permit for any alteration to the outside of their property, or the removal from the street of any unregistered vehicle, or the removal of clutter from their front yard or porch or even keeping their grass appropriately mowed. As I drive around or as citizens report, I find that these and other Town ordinances are being violated.

Everyone follows some rules they don't like. Probably, like paying sales taxes, property taxes, and other taxes. Some rules, like stopping at a stop sign or obeying other traffic laws might be violated at times, but many times violating them will have adverse consequences. For the most part, we live in a society which benefits when rules are followed. So, to receive these benefits, each person should comply with the rules, dumb or not, that's the idea in a democracy.

When one decides to live in a community with services such as water, sewage, garbage, streets, and so on, whether they know it or not, they agree to a "social contract," that is to abide by the community rules, dumb or not. These citizens do give up some freedom; however, they live with order and the benefit of the services mentioned above. Those who fail to comply with the rules of the community contribute to neighborhood blight and, in some cases, put their neighbors' health and safety at risk. They show no respect for their fellow citizens. Shame on those who ignore our rules regardless of whether **the** rules are dumb or not. A thank you to those who respect our Town ordinances.

Above and Beyond: As I write this, we have some citizens who are giving above and beyond what the "social contract" calls for. They are "Deadeye" Buckingham, Roy Moats, and Tom Shay. These guys are volunteering to help the Town crew do asphalt patching on Rowlesburg streets today. When you see them give them a big "THANK YOU." Guys, thank you.

We can be the best kept Town in the county. Let's do it!

Darrell
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