

Mayor's Message
Rowlesburg: May 2026

Sewer Projects: Rowlesburg has two sewer projects being designed at the present. One is the wastewater treatment plant which was identified for funding through Congressionally Directed Spending at the \$7.5 million level in the March 2022 timeframe. More will be said about the status of the wastewater treatment plant later. The second project is the “park project,” short for Sanitary Sewer Upgrade and Improvement Project, with funding secured sometime in 2023. In late 2024, a grant for reimbursable costs for the “park project” was awarded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers through what is called the Section 571 Program. This grant will replace some of the borrowed funding initially secured for the project. Of course, this will reduce future financial obligations for the Town. The net value of the Section 571 Program grant is \$1.9 million.

“Park Project:” The “park project” is needed to mitigate the problem of wastewater discharge into Cheat River under certain rainfall conditions. The Facility plan for the project includes 5 elements, which are (1) a grit removal system, (2) a new sewer line down through the park, (3) a new pump station at the lower end of the park, (4) a new force main crossing Cheat River, and (5) a flow meter on the other side of the river to measure wastewater flow going to the treatment plant. Identified as causing the discharge into the Cheat were grit from the treatment of roads and streets in winter and from other sources (like grass clippings) too. Unfortunately, Rowlesburg has a combined sewer and stormwater collection system so incursion of grit and other material can easily enter the collection system. A non-linear vertical pipe alignment or “belly” in the sewer pipe down through the park and the buildup of grit therein reduces flow capacity adding to the problem of unwanted discharge near the upper region of the park.

Thrasher Engineers, on May 1, 2026, submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers a design plan which is 60% complete for the “park project.” In general, the plans reveal that the grit removal system will be housed in a building with a footprint of approximately 65 feet by 45 feet and is located on the lot (to be purchased from the Martin family of Ohiopyle, Pa) just east of the parking lot at the park and adjacent to Cheat River. Rather than the sewer line being routed down through the park as it now exists, the upgrade will be a force main and will be routed in the south (left side going toward Kingwood) right of way for WV Route 72 (Catherine Street). The plan is to cross WV 72 at the entrance to the existing pump station and the Rivers Edge Campground. This change in the route for the upgraded sewer line is a better fit in that disturbing the park landscape during construction will be avoided. I am no longer optimistic about when construction on the “park project” will begin. Hopefully, before the end of the year.

Wastewater Treatment Plant: As everyone in Town knows, we live in a floodplain. So, suitable sites for a new wastewater treatment plant are either unavailable, owner doesn't want to sell, or undesirable, located in the park. Consequently, a rehabilitation of the existing system, the lagoons or ponds as many refer to them, in Manheim was investigated. The Thrasher Engineers found that the EPA recognizes that utilizing lagoons with modern equipment and new design considerations are a good fit for small municipalities. Thrasher Engineers report that a preliminary lagoon design has been developed based on the current permitted flow. The proposed footprint is relatively small and is anticipated to fit within one of the existing lagoons. Right now, it is unknown when construction or the rehabilitation of the existing wastewater treatment plant will begin.

Park Friday Evening Dinner Schedule: Cost is \$14.00 for Adults and \$7.00 for Children under 12.

Price includes lemonade, tea – sweet or unsweetened, and dessert

Meals available from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. or until sold out

Come out, have a meal, socialize with friends, and enjoy the evening. The park is one of the best around.

June 5	Spaghetti, Salad, Bread
June 19	Pork loin, Scalloped potatoes, Green Beans
July 10	Creamed chicken over biscuits, Mashed potatoes, Corn
July 24	Ham, Macaroni Salad, Green Beans, Bread
August 7	Fried fish, Ron Sines' famous Cole slaw, Macaroni & Cheese
August 21	BBQ by Jason Riggs – Smoked pulled pork, baked beans, buttered potatoes, Pasta salad

Pop/Soda and Bottled Water \$1.00 each -- Takeout is Available – Menu subject to change, watch social media

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