

**From:** Mayor

**Sent:** Monday, February 8, 2016 4:22 PM

**To:** robin schaffer

**Cc:** Lena Crandall; Steve Pappalardo; Robert Cole; Stephen Johnson; Wayne Esannason

**Subject:** Re: 30 Greenacres Lead situation

Dear Mrs. Schafer -- Below is follow-up information provided by the Village Staff (relevant members cc'd) with respect to the issue you have raised. I have also cc'd Lena Crandall because she is the person who initially brought your concerns to my attention. Since I understand that you had posted a comment on the subject on the Scarsdale Moms Facebook page, it would be appreciated if you could post the Staff's advice there as well so those who read your post could be made aware of what the Village Staff has advised. The Staff's report is as follows:

"The Village of Scarsdale Water Department understands its responsibility to operate and maintain the public water system in compliance with all applicable federal, state, and county requirements. As part of our continuing efforts to monitor lead and copper in public drinking water, efforts that are mandated of all public water systems nationwide, we administer a sampling program in a manner consistent with United States Environmental Protection Agency and New York State Health Department procedures and requirements.

The last sample of 30 properties, taken between June 1 and September 30, 2015, identified two homes with elevated drinking water lead levels. Property owners were notified of the test results and recommendations for lead reduction were conveyed to each homeowner. While the Village of Scarsdale water mains *are not* made of lead, individual service lines to each home may be. Both lead service lines and components of a home's interior plumbing can contribute to elevated levels of lead in one's drinking water.

It is estimated that there are fewer than 100 Scarsdale homes that continue to receive their water through a lead service line. Where a lead line is identified serving a home that exceeds the federal standard

for lead content in drinking water (15 parts per billion), the resident is encouraged to replace the section of the lead service line that s/he is responsible for, i.e., the segment between the home and the curb, and the Village offers to partner in that effort by replacing the portion between the curb and the main. The Village will also replace the public portion of a lead service line at any time a homeowner elects to replace the private section, irrespective of whether their drinking water exhibits excessive lead levels. Importantly, however, lead service lines are not the only source for elevated lead content in one's drinking water, and replacement of a lead service line does not guarantee that there will not be an elevated drinking water lead level in a particular home, especially if that home is either very old and has lead water pipes inside, is a home constructed prior to 1986 and has copper pipes with 100% lead solder, or is a new or newly renovated home.

It might not surprise you that old interior plumbing -- especially from 1960 or earlier -- can contain lead. Some pipes were actually made of lead, and brass fixtures can also contain lead. Here's what is surprising, though: pipes in new or recently remodeled homes are also identified by the USEPA and departments of public health as being at risk of elevated drinking water lead levels due to such factors as lead content in plumbing fixtures and other sources. Although regulations concerning lead content in plumbing equipment and materials have improved over the years, federal law allows, for example, plumbing fixtures with up to 8% lead content to be labeled "lead-free." Additionally, although lead solder was banned after 1986, solder continues to include lead content, albeit reduced over time as regulations continue to become increasingly stringent. The risk of elevated drinking water lead content in a new or newly renovated home diminishes over time as mineral deposits and local water treatment protocols coat the inside of water pipes, thereby insulating the water from direct contact with lead. Other variables also influence the presence of lead in drinking water.

For more information about lead in drinking water, please review the United States Environmental Protection Agency's "Protect Your Family

from Exposures to Lead” FAQ available  
here:<http://www.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-exposures-lead#testdw>

In addition, individuals interested in having their water tested for lead (for a \$46.00 fee at present) may contact the Westchester County Health Department lab at (914) 231-1770."

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

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**From:** robin schafer <[robinschafer1@gmail.com](mailto:robinschafer1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 6, 2016 9:16 AM  
**To:** Mayor  
**Subject:** Re: 30 Greenacres Lead situation

Thank you very much Mr. Mark. I look forward to your and the village response. All the best, Robin Schafer

On Sat, Feb 6, 2016 at 9:03 AM, Mayor <[mayor@scarsdale.com](mailto:mayor@scarsdale.com)> wrote:  
Dear Mrs. Schafer -- Thank you for your email on this very important matter. Your situation was called to my attention yesterday afternoon when Lena Crandall (cc'd) cut and pasted in an email to me the post you had put up on the Scarsdale Moms Facebook page. As soon as I saw the email, I contacted the Village Manager and Deputy Village Manager (both cc'd, as is the head of the Water Department) and asked for a report on the matter from the Water Department. Shortly after my initial call to them, I was on the phone with them and with the former head of our Water Department who was able to provide background on the water piping in the Village. I asked them to pull together material on this subject so that we are in a position to report on it in an informed manner early next week. Once they have done so and I have an understanding of the facts, we will get back to you and the community generally.

I understand the significance of the issue that has confronted you and want to make sure that our response to you and the community is both timely and accurate.

Thanks very much for contacting me on this matter.

Very truly yours, Jon Mark

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From: [robinschafer1@gmail.com](mailto:robinschafer1@gmail.com) <[robinschafer1@gmail.com](mailto:robinschafer1@gmail.com)>

Sent: Friday, February 5, 2016 6:40 PM

To: Mayor

Subject: 30 Greenacres Lead situation

Dear Mr. Mark,

I moved from Ridgecrest East where I had lived for 10 years to 30 Greenacres Avenue. I had Bob Horvath from Housemasters do my inspection and the lead level at my house came back at <1 deciliter ....Anyway, this was certainly important as I have a 3 year old daughter.

In August, the village contacted me and wanted to do a "random" sampling of my water but needed it to be after 6 hours to be a true reading.....

A jug was dropped off and I filled it from my daughters bathroom sink in the second floor first thing in the morning. The report that came back was very alarming.

The level of lead in my water was 28.3 and the copper was over 37.

When I spoke to Stephen Johnson he understood that it was an issue but advised me to run the water for 15 seconds before using it and to cook with cold water.

Last week I was told by an experienced plumber that it really should be removed. Now I am spending almost \$5000 to replace the lead main from the street to my house & Scarsdale is replacing the pipe from the middle of the road to the curb.

My daughters health and well being are certainly the most important to me. I am however told that there are many, many lead pipes here in Scarsdale and that this may be an issue elsewhere in the village. For a town where the taxes are so extraordinary, and education is very important to most people here, shouldn't these lead pipes be removed by the village and replaced with copper pipes to protect the people and more importantly the children who have developing minds that are effected by lead especially before the age of 5.

I would certainly appreciate a response on this matter. Thank you very much.

Robin Schafer

Robin