

January 24, 2001

To the residents of the Village of Valleyview:

As many of you know, Pomeroy and Associates has been providing engineering services to the Village for a number of years concerning storm sewer, bridge replacement, and street resurfacing projects. All of these projects received funding either from the State of Ohio or the Franklin County Engineer.

Since 1991 the Village has constructed over \$1,000,000 of improvements that include the construction of over 9,000' of storm sewer, a new bridge on Dibblee Avenue, and resurfacing all of the streets and alleys within the Village. (Please see the attached table of Village capital improvement projects.) In addition, the Village has received over \$822,000 in funding from the State and County for this work. I think the Village Council and Mayor should be congratulated on their ability to receive funding for these projects and their foresight to plan and execute a successful infrastructure improvement program.

That is why I believe it is unfair for one person in the Village to circulate false information about the successful capital improvement work that has taken place. We have received a number of letters prepared by Irene White that contain false and unfounded statements about the Mayor, our firm, and the successful capital improvement work that was recently completed in the Village.

Until recently, we thought that her letters contained information that was so obviously wrong to anyone who is even remotely familiar with how the Village obtains funding that a response would only give her untrue claims some validity.

However, recently Irene White has made false statements concerning my truthfulness and the Mayor's truthfulness and it is time to set the record straight. The following are some of Irene White's false statements followed by factual information.

### **Irene White's False Statement**

*"I really started my campaign against the mayor for myself, then I saw that I was not the only one getting shafted. When the mayor started trying to get council to OK using money from the Powell Ave. Project to fix Westfall's property I knew this couldn't be done. Westfall's property should be fixed..it had been misplanned from another project in 1994. This is how the mayor tries to correct Pomeroy mistakes. He slips them in on later contracts. These jobs are being paid for twice."*

### **The Truth:**

This summer the Village completed construction of the Storm Sewer Phase 5 Project that involved the construction of storm sewers to help relieve flooding west of Hague Avenue. The project also had an alternate to construct a trench drain across the Westfalls driveway should there be enough funding available depending on contractor bids. As it turned out, when the project was near completion, there was enough funding available to construct the alternate. The base sewer contract had a cost of \$198,808 and the Westfall alternate had a cost of \$ 3,650. This work was paid for by 90% State OPWC funds and by 10% Village funds.

During the Village's August meeting, the Village Council voted to proceed with the storm sewer contract alternate and to construct a trench drain across the Westfall's driveway. The Westfall's east drive has always been lower than the street so that rain water tended to flow down their drive. The trench drain was installed to improve a condition that has existed for many years and was not installed to correct any previous mistake as Irene White contends.

### **Irene White's False Statement:**

*"OPWC has taken away thousands from the Village on these two projects alone because of the deceptions on applications for funding. A letter was sent to council on this subject from OPWC. They won't pay. These lies have cost us an estimated \$50,000, give or take a few dollars. Why, council??"*

### **The Truth:**

Public records show that Irene White's statement is false. Funds have not been taken away from the Village. On November 6, the Mayor and I met with the director of the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) and he stated that he has never seen any information that would indicate any wrong doing concerning funding applications for the Village of Valleyview.

However, based on Irene White's false claims to the director, he did write a letter to the Village dated August 10 (please see attached copy). The letter contains a statement that OPWC funds could not be used to correct problems on previous projects. We are assuming that Irene White was referring to the recent storm sewer project that included an alternate concerning the Westfall residence. We discussed this alternate with the director and when he was presented with the facts, he confirmed that they would approve OPWC funds for the Westfall property work. The funds have since been paid by OPWC for this work. Irene White's claims are completely false.

To the residents of the Village of Valleyview  
January 24, 2001  
Page Three

**Irene White's False Statement:**

*"I am all for getting funding for public improvements for Valleyview. I wouldn't live anywhere else. But it has to be done honestly and legally. Russolillo and Smith are putting us in danger of not getting funds by lying on the applications just to get paid again for previous job mistakes. And its against the law??"*

**The Truth:**


As we indicated above, the Mayor and I met with Mr. Bicking, the director of the Ohio Public Works Commission, and he confirmed that Irene White's statement is completely false. Our firm has been providing engineering services in the Central Ohio area for over 30 years and we have a reputation that is beyond reproach. In fact, it is Irene White who is in danger of legal action as the result of her false and malicious statements.

Please keep these discrepancies in mind when you evaluate any of Irene White's future letters or comments. For your information I have included responses to additional statements she has made, which become quite long and are provided for those of you who want additional clarification.

I know that this information will help you to appreciate the extent of improvements the Village has accomplished and dispel the misinformation and falsehoods that have clouded the successful work that the Mayor and Village Council have been able to achieve.

You, as residents of Valleyview, have many things to be proud of, and your Village is receiving generous and appropriate support to continue to improve from your Mayor, my engineering firm (Pomeroy & Associates), and OPWC. It would be a shame to let one person's lies make you feel anything less than proud.

Sincerely,  
POMEROY & ASSOCIATES, LTD.

  
Bradley J. Smith, P.E.  
Principal

## Village of Valleyview's Capital Improvement Projects

(Based on Ohio Public Works Commission - see [www.pwc.state.oh.us](http://www.pwc.state.oh.us))

Year	Project Description	Funding Source			Total Funding
		State or County Grant	State Loan	Village	
1991	Replacement of the Dibblee Avenue Bridge over the North Fork of Dry Run Creek. This project involved the replacement of a deteriorated bridge with a new precast concrete structure with cast-in-place concrete wing walls.	\$118,048		\$11,424	\$129,472
1992	Storm Sewer Phases 1 through 3 This project involved the construction of storm sewers in the center part of the Village between Richardson Avenue and Hague Avenue. Sewers were constructed along Valleyview Drive, Elliot Avenue and Warren Avenue.	\$229,811		\$25,535	\$255,346
1992	Resurface Hague Avenue and Valleyview Drive This project involved resurfacing Valleyview Drive and Hague Avenue within the Village limits. This project was funded by Franklin County.	\$84,805			\$84,805
1994	Storm Sewer Phase 4 This project involved the construction of storm sewers at the east end of the Village. Sewers were constructed along Dibblee Avenue, Murray Avenue, Eldon Avenue and Valleyview Drive.	\$180,000		\$20,000	\$200,000
1999	Storm Sewer Phase 5 This project involved the construction of storm sewers at the west end of the Village. Sewers were constructed along Hague Avenue, Dibblee Avenue, Powell Avenue, Elliot Avenue and the alleys.	\$209,556		\$23,284	\$232,840
2000	Resurface the Village's Streets and Alleys This project involved the resurfacing of all of the streets in the Village except Hague and Valleyview Drive and resurfacing the alleys.		\$173,363	\$3,147	\$176,510
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$822,220</b>	<b>\$173,363</b>	<b>\$83,390</b>	<b>\$1,078,973</b>



# THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION

65 East State Street, Suite 312, Columbus, Ohio 43215-4213

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## DIRECTOR

W. Laurence Bicking

August 10, 2000

Michael P. Russolillo, Mayor  
Village of Valley View  
432 N. Richardson Avenue  
Columbus, Ohio 43204-3472

Dear Mayor Russolillo:

It has been brought to our attention that communications between this office and the Village of Valley View need to be clarified relative to past and present projects the Commission has funded in the Village.

Enclosed is a summary report of all projects the Commission has funded in Valley View. You will note that all, with the exception of CT04C - Storm Sewer Replacement, Phase 5 and CC12D - Street Resurfacing, have been completed and closed out. There can be no further Commission participation in these projects.

Our records indicate that CC12D - Street Resurfacing is currently being initiated, and that CT04C - Storm Sewer Replacement, Phase 5 is progressing in a timely manner.

We have not received a request to amend project number CT04C to allow funds from that project to be used to correct problems with an earlier phase. A request of that nature is contrary to Commission policy and would not be approved.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Lou Mascari or myself.

Sincerely,

W. Laurence Bicking  
Director

cc: Lou Mascari  
Village Council

614-466-0880

Email(pwc\_is@odnvmis.a1.ohio.gov)

G LOAN

DATE	COMPLETION	PERCENT	DATE	DATE
02/17/2001	REPORT	DISB	DATE	DISBURSEMENT
Y	100.00%	100.00%	01/13/1992	01/13/1992
Y	100.00%	100.00%	01/13/1992	01/13/1992
Y	91.40%	91.40%	01/13/1992	01/13/1992
Y	96.00%	96.00%	01/13/1992	01/13/1992
N	89.65%	89.65%	01/13/1992	01/13/1992
N	0.00%	0.00%	01/13/1992	01/13/1992