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Survey may lead to sewer line funding in St. Armand

By HEATHER

Posted on: Saturday, March 15, 2008

SACKETT

Enterprise Staff Writer

BLOOMINGDALE — The town of St. Armand is asking residents to return a household characteristics survey in hopes the survey will help the town get the information needed to apply for federal grant money to install a sewer line.

According to town Supervisor Joyce Morency, the survey was sent to all of the roughly 60 households on five streets in the town of St. Armand: Vine Street, Poplar Street, Maple Street, Whiteface Lane and Mill Lane. The results of the survey could help the residents of those streets who currently have septic systems, some of them faulty, get a town sewer line.

But to qualify for federal grants for the project, 95 percent of the surveys must be returned and 51 percent of the respondents must qualify as low-income according to Essex County standards.

Morency said the town could receive up to \$600,000 in federal assistance for the project and the Essex County Planning Office is helping to write the grant request.

Morency said it's very important for residents to return the surveys as soon as possible, as the deadline for the grant application is April 28.

"We need to tell people, please do not ignore them," Morency said. "Take a few minutes to fill them out and send them back so we can move forward and see if we are eligible for funding."

Morency said it is well-known that these streets have problems with the septic systems.

"The septic systems on some of these streets are very faulty," she said. "The department of health knows, everybody knows about them."

Respondents have to answer five simple questions about their household, including the type of dwelling, how many people are in the household and total annual income. The information in the surveys will be compiled by RCAP Solutions Inc, of South Burlington, Vt., and will remain strictly confidential.

Town Councilman Tom Jones said that when he was campaigning for office this past fall, septic systems were a concern he often heard from people on those streets and some said they wanted to be on the town sewer line.

"In some areas the soil is very wet," Jones said. "Sometimes in the summer there are noticeable odors coming from those areas. We have the opportunity to rectify the situation."