

LEAVE IT TO A "BEAVER"

By Carrie Bolton

April showers brought more than May flowers to the Village of Cleveland on April 23, 2023.

The Village of Cleveland in Oswego County faced significant challenges due to heavy rainfall and subsequent flooding caused by a broken beaver dam approximately 2 miles upstream. The incident occurred around 3:30 am, resulting in the bank collapsing obstructing the culvert under Bridge St. (close to Route 49 in the Town of Vienna). This collapse caused damage to a sewer main and a major portion of the road.

To address the situation, emergency crews were summoned and employed heavy equipment to clear the debris and establish a temporary culvert to restore the flow of water. Cleveland's three-person team from the Department of Public Works (DPW), Constantia and Vienna Highway Department worked tirelessly to repair the sewer main, ensuring that residents could resume using their toilets, dishwashers, and washing machines. However, there are concerns about the durability of the temporary fix and the potential for a recurrence of such incidents during future storms.

Due to the extensive damage, Bridge Street has been closed and will require reconstruction. The estimated cost for this road repair is approximately \$1.3 million, a significant sum that the village had not budgeted for. Shaun House, the Supervisor of Cleveland's DPW, mentioned that it could take up to eight years to save enough funds for this repair, potentially causing neglect in other areas. The Village Mayor, Laureen Tackman, stated that they are uncertain about when they will receive assistance specifically for this area, but mentioned that the clerk and board have been exploring additional funding options.



Gravel field now completely flooded



Bridge St. temporary road repair



24" temporary culvert

Despite the challenges, the DPW has shown their dedication and commitment to the village and community by promptly addressing the immediate concerns and working towards improvements. The village authorities remain focused on finding solutions to the funding issue and ensuring the long-term stability and resilience of the affected area.



Repairing Road with fill



Sasquash siting at flood site



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