



Planning & Zoning

The city has an opening on the Planning and Zoning Board. Persons interested in serving should contact the city clerk at cityclerk@terril.net or call and leave a message at 853.6227.

Police Department

The Dickinson County Sheriff's Department has been contracted to provide law enforcement services in the City of Terril. For non-emergency services, please call the Communication Center at 712.336.2525; and as always, in an emergency, call 9-1-1.



Terril Fun Days

August 7 & 8, 2009

Planning has begun for the 2009 Terril Fun Days. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Jeri at 853.6468. Future meeting notices will be posted on cable Channel 2. **More volunteers are needed.**

Utility Billing

It is the responsibility of the landlord to contact City Hall whenever a tenant moves in or out. The account will remain in the landlord's name until City Hall has been contacted and a deposit has been paid by the tenant. **As a reminder, bills are due on the 10th of the month.**



Building Permits

Building permits are required before any work on your project can commence. If you are planning a

project that involves structural changes to your home, such as building a deck, enclosing a deck, bedroom addition, or adding a fence or accessory building, you will need a building permit. Normal building maintenance (paint or carpet) does not require a building permit.

The property owner is held responsible for obtaining the building permit. If the code inspector finds the work in progress without the required permit, the property owner is cited (and not the contractor) for having work done without a permit. Penalties for building without a permit can be quite steep. You may be required to tear apart the entire structure and pay a fine. At a minimum, if you're caught without a permit, you'll be required to stop work until a permit is obtained. If it's a busy time of year, this may take weeks or months.

Contact Zoning Administrator Tim Matthews at 853.6319 to obtain a building permit.

Residential Trash Collection

Street-side garbage collection is regularly scheduled for every Thursday morning unless it falls upon a holiday. On those occasions pickup will be postponed until Friday.

In order to discourage debris build-up and to reduce undue wear and tear on equipment, the annual "clean-up" day has been discontinued. Allowable items will be picked up in smaller quantities year around.

Pet Owners

We would like to take this time to remind all pet owners that they must have their pets, especially dogs, contained on their property at all times. When walking animals, they must be on a leash.

It is unlawful for any owner to allow an animal to run at large in the corporate limits of the city. Animals found running at large will be seized and impounded. If the owner fails to redeem the animal, or if the owner cannot be located within seven (7) days, the animal shall be disposed of in accordance with law or destroyed by euthanasia.

City Recycling

For your convenience, Terril offers citizens a 5 compartment (Plastic, Glass, Tin, Newspaper & Cardboard) recycling bin located at the corner of North 3rd Street and Main Street which is emptied twice a month.



Dickinson County Recycling Center

For a small fee, the Dickinson County Recycling Center accepts electronic waste (i.e. TVs, CPUs, VCRs, stereos,) tires, white goods (i.e. stoves, refrigerators, dryers, freezers,) and yard waste. The recycling center has available, free of charge, wood chips and compost. Call to check on availability.

Household Hazardous Materials are also accepted **by appointment only** and upon completion of a self-inventory sheet.

The recycling center is located on County Road A-34 one-half mile east of Highway 71 in Milford. If you have any questions or to arrange for an appointment, please call 712.338.2549.

Do You Have an Illegal Sump Pump Connection?

Sump pump systems are designed to capture surface or ground water that enters basements or crawl spaces and pump it away from the house. The basic sump system includes drain tile, a sump pit, a sump pump, a float or switch, and a drain line. The sump pit extends below the slab and collects surface water that enters the basement/crawl space or groundwater that rises to the slab.

Homeowners commonly use sump pumps in their basements to battle moisture and flooding issues. However, water from sump pumps should NOT be discharged into the sanitary sewer system. That's called a cross connection, and it results in higher sewer charges.

The Problem With Cross Connections

When a sump pump is connected to a sanitary sewer line it is called a cross connection. Often, this is a hose leading from the sump to a laundry tub or a floor drain. As you may know, water that goes down any drain in your house leads to the sanitary sewer system, where it is treated before being released back into the environment.

Why You Should Care

When clear water is added to wastewater, it can overload the collection system. It is estimated that a single home with a cross connected sump pump can add up to 1,400 gallons of water to the system during one average rain storm. That's the equivalent of flushing your toilet 280 times based on a standard toilet with a five-gallon tank. If you have a low flow toilet with a three-gallon tank, you'd have to flush 466 times.

Multiply that by the number of homes in your neighborhood and the magnitude of the problem becomes evident.

Excess water in the treatment system costs the City, and you, money. When clear water enters the system through cross-connected sump pumps, everyone pays to treat water that is already clean. Clearing up the cross connection problem will help keep cost increases to a minimum.

In a community of a couple hundred homes, it only takes a few improperly connected sump pumps working in wet weather to cause a sanitary sewer backup into basements, streets and waterways.

Are cross connections the only cause of this?

No. Cross connections are one source of inflow to the sanitary sewer system. The other source is ground water that can also infiltrate the sewage collection system through bad joints, cracks, or breaks in the sanitary sewer pipe. The City regularly inspects the interior of the sanitary sewer pipe with TV cameras so problems can be found and corrected.

How do I know if I have a cross-connected sump pump?

The key to look for is where the water goes when the sump pump is pumping. If you have a pipe that goes outdoors, and drains into your yard (well away from your foundation), your sump pump is not cross-connected. If you have a hose that drains into your laundry tub or floor drain, your sump pump is cross-connected. If you can see right away that your sump pump is cross-connected, it would be to your advantage to get it re-routed.

Redirecting Your Sump Pump Connection

Sump pumps should drain into the City's storm sewer system through one of two methods:

- a direct connection (a pipe from the house to the main storm sewer line or tile), if available
- directly onto the ground (preferably 20 feet from the house and NOT into a neighbor's yard)

Can Cross Connections cause basement flooding?

The sanitary sewers have been designed to transfer sanitary waste only. Storm water flow added to the normal sanitary flow can exceed the capacity of the sanitary sewer, resulting in pressure build up in the pipe. When pressure builds up it seeks to relieve itself through any means possible, one of which is by backing up private sanitary services and filling basements and crawlspaces. Reducing the extraneous flow will reduce the surcharging and sewer back-ups.

Reduction of Overload

In an effort to reduce the overload on our sanitary sewer system, the City of Terril has instituted a program aimed at eliminating costly, noncompliant connections. We want the public to be aware of this problem and the increasing cost to all residents.

Please do your part to reduce this overload.

Copies of all city ordinances are available online at: www.terril-ia.us

95.04 PROHIBITED ACTS. No person shall do, or allow connection of a roof downspout, sump pump, exterior foundation drain, areaway drain, or other source of surface run-off or groundwater to a building sewer or building drain which in turn is connected directly or indirectly to a public sanitary sewer.

97.01 STORM WATER. No person shall discharge or cause to be discharged any storm water, surface water, groundwater, roof run-off, sub-surface drainage, uncontaminated cooling water, or unpolluted industrial process waters to any sanitary sewer. Storm water and all other unpolluted drainage shall be discharged to such sewers as are specifically designated as combined sewers or storm sewers, or to a natural outlet approved by the Superintendent.