



PRESS RELEASE
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City Response to the Cornerstone Condominium Concerns Wadsworth, Ohio

In response to unexpected issues that Wadsworth residents experienced in or near the Cornerstone Condominium Development last week, the Wadsworth Building and Code Enforcement Official inspected and declared four (4) residential dwellings to be structurally unsafe, due to the rapid settling of foundations that caused considerable defects in the foundation and wood framing.

“The City of Wadsworth’s first and foremost priority is to make certain that the homeowners and their neighbors are safe from harm,” stated Director of Public Service Robert Patrick. “The residences were posted with a notice to vacate until such time they can be proven to be structurally safe and secure, and all utility services can be safely reconnected.”

With all utilities being disconnected, some homeowners expressed concern about potential water damage in their basements due to the loss of power to their sump pumps. As a Public Power community, the City of Wadsworth provides electricity to its residents and businesses; therefore, the Wadsworth Electric Department took action and was able to install temporary service to the homeowners, with outdoor outlets and extension cords to their sump pumps. “Though it’s a small gesture, we were eager to create a solution that alleviated one of the problems these folks are dealing with during an already stressful situation,” said Patrick.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) has been onsite due to the existence of old coal mines in this area. “ODNR experts are investigating the possible subsidence in Wadsworth and though there is an abandoned mine in the area, it was active in 1896 and little data exists on its extent or exact location,” said Eric Heis, ODNR Public Information Officer. “We hope to know more within the week,” added Heis.

The City has been assisting crews from the ODNR by supplying water for their drilling equipment and investigation. “Though there are other old mines located underground in Wadsworth, this is the first time a situation like this has occurred that I’m aware of”, said Patrick. “Residents with concerns are able to come to the Building and Planning Department, located in City Hall, to view maps of the location of these old mines in the city.”

As part of the City’s development process, a landowner or developer is required to perform studies to determine whether subsurface issues are present before any development is approved. A study was conducted at this location by an outside engineering firm.

According to ODNR’s website, Medina County is one of 37 counties in Ohio where Coal Mine Subsidence Insurance is available. “The city encourages residents living in areas where old mines exist to talk to their insurance agent and learn more about this, so they can determine the best way to protect their property,” added Patrick.

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