



[Lynn Wiemeler](#) [Raymond DaCosta](#) sorry if my questions were misleading; hubs made mods to our sump pump system and (knock on wood) we have been dry. Flooded last year but totally as sump pump failure.

· 14h



[Raymond DaCosta](#) Yea...sump pumps will go if they're working hard. If the sump-pump is electric and the power goes so does the pump. Do you have a watchdog back-up if power is out? The sump should keep the pooling water below the table. The check valve on the main will keep the sewer water out in the main. It's money but no other way in lovely Park Ridge but you can't beat proximity to the airport and air traffic 😊😄👉👈

· 14h



[Lynn Wiemeler](#) Last year when we flooded we realized the builder had both pumps and the back up charger on the same circuit. So when stormwater pump failed it popped the breaker activating back up on battery alone. No recharge. So wasn't even a particularly rainy day but we got a couple inches across the entire basement. Now we have an alarm that notifies us via an obnoxiously loud siren and phone app when water level gets "too close" to the top of the well and hubs split the circuits so now they are on separate breakers. Not 100% but each time we have a close call or water we learn a little more on how to safeguard against flooding.

· 14h



[Raymond DaCosta](#) [Lynn Wiemeler](#) you got it. Terrible oversight on the wiring/circuitry...not your fault. I'm down to just fighting the seepage now. That's another \$12K for French drains! Then finish the basement and pray that all of these water prevention mechanisms work otherwise you lose your finished basement. Again, this is the town diverting the infrastructure issue to the home owner. The root problem resides with the township. I am just treating the symptoms.

· 14h



[Stephanie Maginot Thillens](#) Overhead sewers will do nothing to stop the kind of overland flooding that a lot of residents experienced yesterday, though. My alley neighbor had almost a foot of water coming up above their foundation line and into basement windows, as did a lot of other people living on Cumberland and plenty of other streets.

· 13h · Edited



[Raymond DaCosta](#) [Stephanie Maginot Thillens](#) I hear ya. Simple physics says you can't put 8" of water through a 6" pipe especially at that rate. They need to update the infrastructure in this town to something more contemporary. I don't know what that is nor do I think the tax payers will shoulder the burden. However, as more people realize it's easier to spend the money than battle the bureaucracy the flooding we saw yesterday will continue and grow worse. Unfortunately, we choose to spend our tax \$\$\$ elsewhere. I've just made peace with the fact that I can't invest in my basement. It will never be a livable area. Housing prices will not justify my investment.

· 13h



[Mary Wynn Ryan](#) [Raymond DaCosta](#) not to quibble, but the township (Maine or Leyden) has nothing to do with the City of Park Ridge's decisions on flood control. Two different taxing bodies. I know the City made a point of not raising taxes the last several years, in contrast to all of the other taxing bodies (Cook County, District 207, etc.). But I wonder if those "no new taxes" could have helped build our stash for the inevitable mondo sewer rebuild in our future. Or maybe they were too small to make a significant difference. Somebody mentioned they'd

support a referendum to fix the sewers but I'm sure there's a gentleman's agreement with the school district not to put a competing "ask" on the ballot in Nov. or April. The idea of a sewer referendum for the City of Park Ridge is likely to come up again one of these years. But whether we pay for fancy personal household drains or we pay taxes for infrastructure updates, the homeowners pay. And every time the City tries to fix one area, everybody else starts screaming that they want their area to get fixed first. Kinda tough all around.

· 12h



[Raymond DaCosta](#) [Mary Wynn Ryan](#) indeed...I have grown indifferent. Unfortunately there is no easy solution. It's a zero-sum game and someone always has to come out the loser...it's politics. It would just be refreshing to feel like citizens at the local level can affect change but It's no better than the state and federal level. This forum is a nice platform to rant and read rants but nothing more. At least we have that now thanks to social media. Now I don't feel alone 😊😊

· 12h



[Joshua Painter](#) For those w sewer backup issues, check valve is the way to go. Avoid the \$10k+ "flood control" ripoff in your front yard...they will eventually fail - most rely on a power source for pumping, and the valves will eventually stick since they are outdoor and exposed to elements. We paid <\$3k for a mechanical check valve in basement where it isn't exposed to the elements (yes you have to dig a hole in your basement but there are worse things than a carpeted manhole cover). Service once every two years for peace of mind. Never had an issue after that.

· 11h



[Ashley Hawkes](#) Check valves fail just like the ones installed outside. We have outside "flood control" (a check valve), a check valve in the basement, and stand pipes.

· 10h



[Chrystal Peterson Alp](#) Wow. Thank you for this information. I had no idea that check valves were even a thing. Although i don't really know much about any of this. Yet. I have a small home that I love surrounded by larger, newer homes, and it seems like many of our neighbors were "ok" while our yard and basement collected all the goods. My initial thoughts are ... maybe we should spend the money and do this? ... And ... is this even a fair system? Is it fair to single out the working class families that have always made Park Ridge great in their own way who can't afford to check valve? And what happens when everyone check valves? I realize my questions may not make sense, but that's what I'm currently pondering.

· 17m



[Ashley Hawkes](#) When everyone has check valves, then the water stays on the street. Unfortunately, it could also end up in the basement of any home that doesn't have one. It's unfair that having flood control is basically required in order to protect your home in park ridge. If they could just update the sewers none of this would be an issue. Yes, with the amount of rain we got there would still be some over land flooding, but a great deal of water would be in the sewers.

So sorry you're going through this. I feel your pain.

· 37m



[Chrystal Peterson Alp](#) [Ashley Hawkes](#) It seems like I need to do some research on this whole check valve thing. Thanks for your input!

· [8m](#)



[Ashley Hawkes](#) [Chrystal Peterson Alp](#) look into stand pipes. They screw into your drain. Then, when the water backs up, it backs up into the pipe. Instead of getting 10 inches of rain in your basement, you get 10 in of rain in the pipe.

· [6m](#)



[Ashley Hawkes](#) Don't mind my basement, it's actually more of a cellar. I refuse to finish it because of the flooding



· [5m](#)



[Chrystal Peterson Alp](#) [Ashley Hawkes](#) Interesting! Do you leave the pipes on all the time or do you poo them in when you get a flash flood or storm warning?

· [2m](#)



[Ashley Hawkes](#) [Chrystal Peterson Alp](#) I leave them in all the time, unless I want to pour my mop water down there or something. I don't trust the sewers not to flood lol I've been traumatized

· [1m](#)



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· [7m](#)



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· 2m



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· 1m



[Ania Mairink](#) If I remember correctly the City refinanced a portion of our bonds outstanding a couple years back. The refinancing generated annual savings which the City chose not to rebate back to homeowners. How about they use those funds to fix the drainage issues?

· 14h



[Mary Wynn Ryan](#) I think they used the savings to keep taxes flat and to fix many things that had been deferred since 2008, of which we have many.

· 12h



[John Moran](#) Anya Mairink, the savings generated through the TIF Bond refinancing only helps to minimize the total loss on the TIF. It didn't add to savings, it minimizes losses.

However, there have been some significant reductions in other areas, which have enabled the City to reduce our tax levy (which is a small portion of your overall tax bill) 9% last year and 8% the year before that. Essentially, we did give the money back.

Additionally, we have increased funding for line items that help out sewer system work more effiecntly like sewer lining, sewer replacement, a new vactor truck, a new street sweeper, staff to man those vehicles, etc.

· 6h



[Marion Olson](#) I know the city has done many studies. It comes down to a major project and unmanageable amounts of \$\$\$\$\$. If it came to a referendum, do you think it would pass?

· 13h



[Mary Wynn Ryan](#) depends on how the idea competes with the District 207 referendum already in motion. I suspect a sewer referendum will not be offered while the school referendum is in play. Whole thing makes us feel like poor folk, choosing between heat, rent, groceries and medicine. Bummer.

· 12h



[Ashley Hawkes](#) I think that all the people that have already had their sewers fixed, as advised on the various studies, shouldn't have a say in anything going forward. Their flooding is fixed, they don't care about ours.

· 11h



[Ashley Hawkes](#) If it were the million dollar homes still flooding, then the majority of people would care. The blocks that flood just aren't in the area the city cares about. Our alderman LIVES ON OUR BLOCK and can't get anything done about it.