




# CONGRATULATIONS

EEL would like to recognize the following employees for their milestone anniversaries with the company in 2021.



**15 Years:**  
Debbie Anderson  
Todd Wells, P.E., CPII



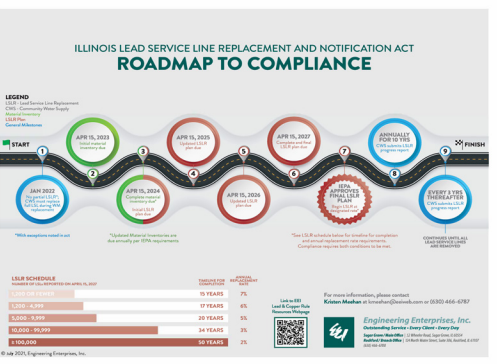
**20 Years:**  
Kris Pung



**25 Years:**  
Angie Smith  
Chris Peterson, P.L.S.



# DID YOU KNOW?



EEL has a Lead and Copper Resources page located on our website? Be sure to bookmark it in order to stay up-to-date on all of the latest news related to this topic.



# ENTEPRISES TRIVIA CHALLENGE

**Q:** How much salt (in ounces) is needed to treat a 20-foot long driveway or about 10 squares of sidewalk in the winter time?

Submit answers to [eei@eeiweb.com](mailto:eei@eeiweb.com) by 12/1 to be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift card!





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# VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY GETS THE LEAD (PB) OUT



In the Fall of 2017, the Village of Montgomery embarked on a three year journey with an end goal of removing all lead services, 106 in total, from the Village's water system at no cost to the property owner. The Village knew that successfully reaching their goal required a proactive partnership with their residents for every step of the project, beginning to end.

## Step 1: Public Outreach, Education and Coordination

The first step of the journey was a public information meeting on October 25, 2017. The goal of the meeting was to inform the residents of the Village's project, the benefits of removing the lead service, generally describing the work involved, assuring residents they would have zero out of pocket expenses, gathering resident information &



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Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEL), founded in 1974, is an award winning consulting engineering firm providing services to public agencies and private entities throughout northern Illinois. Our expertise includes water, wastewater, transportation, stormwater, construction management, land surveying, GIS and municipal consulting.

For more information, visit us online: [www.eeiweb.com](http://www.eeiweb.com)



# VILLAGE OF MONTGOMERY GETS THE LEAD (PB) OUT, CONT'D

explaining the home assessment process. From there, the Village contacted all 106 property owners and scheduled an in-home assessment. The assessments were performed by two teams of two; one representative from Engineering Enterprises, Inc. (EEI) and one from the Village. The home assessment gathered critical information including service material, meter location, obstructions, slab or basement construction, and asbestos potential. Photos and videos of each home assessment were taken with the resident's permission. Ninety-five (95) home assessments were completed in 2 weeks. Eighty-six (86) homes were identified as potentially having asbestos flooring. The Village scheduled a second site visit with these owners to obtain flooring samples for testing.

## Step 2: IEPA Funding, Temporary Construction, Easement Waivers and Public Incentives

In early 2018, the Village was presented with opportunity to obtain a loan with up to \$1 million forgiveness from IEPA's Public Water Supply Program (PWSLP). The project was delayed by one year as the Village secured the funding. During this time the Village was performing additional public outreach in order to secure the temporary easement waivers necessary for construction and required by the loan application process. To achieve its goal of removing

all lead services at zero cost to the residents, the Village offered a \$500 incentive for executing the easement waiver and a \$1,300 (max) reimbursement program for non-structural internal repairs resulting from construction (i.e. replacing drywall, flooring, paint, etc). The Village coordinated with IEPA who allowed the reimburse-



ment program to be loan eligible. The Village was approved for approximately \$1.39 million loan, but ultimately only took a loan value equal to the principal forgiveness (\$1 million) and used their general obligation bond to pay for the balance of the construction project.

## Step 3: Design and Construction

Detailed engineering plans were prepared showing the location of proposed water services, existing utilities including existing sewer services, a future storm sewer to be installed as part of another Village project,

trees to be saved or removed, and driveway/sidewalk removals and replacements. Once the project was awarded, the second and last public information meeting was held on September 17, 2019. Like the first public meeting, the goal of the second meeting was to inform the residents; specifically, introduce them to the contractor, get detailed information of the construction activities and schedule, and review the reimbursement program.



Upon issuance of the IEPA loan, construction commenced on November 7, 2019. New one-inch services were installed via minimally invasive horizontal directional drilling. Copper services were installed from the main to the new curb stop for all houses. From the curb stop to the meter inside the homes, the service was either HDPE with tracer wire (slab foundation; 87 total) or copper (basements; 19 total). New meters were installed and grounded appropriately.

## Step 4: Journey Completed Despite a Pandemic

A planned winter shut down occurred on December 16, 2019. At that time approximately one-third of the services had been replaced. Work was to resume in March of 2020; however, due to COVID-19 and the nature of the construction (working inside people's homes), the project was postponed four months. The original completion date of the project was June 26, 2020; however, the Village requested and received from IEPA a revised completion date of October 30, 2020. Construction resumed on June 30, 2020 but not before all parties established pandemic safety protocols that were shared with the residents.

On August 28, 2020, the last lead service was replaced. The Village of Montgomery completed its journey and achieved its goal of being lead free at no cost to its residents.



# CHAIRMAN'S CORNER



Normal.....First, some of you may wonder if I am the guy that can even identify normal, point taken.

Normal, New Normal, call it what you will. It is what we get used too. Since we started the pandemic, we have had to shift our concept of normal time and time again. From social to business, the changes have been profound. As we all get used to the "new normal", we forget about the "old normal" and move on.

Last Halloween we were forced to change our normal way of looking at things and expanded our candy distribution system. Can you remember back to Halloween when there was the debate on whether we could or could not have a "normal" Halloween? We shifted our perspective and decided to create an opportunity to have a "normal" Halloween no matter what. We built a candy monster to distribute our candy. No touch, just put your bag under the snout and wait for the candy to drop in. It turned out to be one of the most fun Halloweens we have had for a long time. Everyone loved the candy monster, including the adults.

The pandemic created a multitude of issues, but it also created opportunities. Speaking just for me, I have had enough Zoom type calls this year, however, for many of the committees and groups I am involved with having a virtual option for any meeting is a huge benefit (and right now it seems normal). We have been able to bring in national speakers at low cost and provide flexibility for all of us to attend meetings with folks from a large geographic region. This winter I expect that we will offer at least a hybrid option for our meetings, so people can avoid travel in bad weather. Virtual meetings are certainly an improvement over the basic conference call; however, we all know there is no substitute for in-person meetings. Now that we are back and meeting with folks in-person

on a more regular, dare I say normal basis, it is more apparent to me what we have missed over the last year plus. I hope the Delta variant does not set us back too far. I am about used to the "new normal", but hey time to adapt again. I guess that is what I have learned throughout the pandemic. We find a way to make things work.

I fully expected that this Halloween we would be back to handing out candy and that the candy monster would be a remnant of the past. With the Delta variant out there, I guess we will be bringing back the candy monster. Who knows, maybe the candy monster will be the new normal. In the end it really does not matter because I know we will make it happen whatever curve balls are thrown our way. Stay safe and embrace the new normal. In the end it is all the same.

