

CLEANUP OF MOLD IN CLERK'S OFFICE TO GET UNDER WAY

Author: PAM MILLEVILLE-KOWALIK - News Niagara County Bureau
© The Buffalo News Inc.

The Village Board Monday voted, 5-0, to pay Enviro Care Inc. of Buffalo up to \$832 to remove a black mold that caused rashes in four clerks in August. The village clerk's office should be open by Wednesday once the cleaning is done.

Anthony McKenna, village engineer, said that an employee of his office studied the problem and found a sticky mold in the dehumidifier in the office. His firm, Wendel of Lockport, also had the carpet tested and noticed mold on four or five ceiling tiles. Enviro Care Inc. will use a special vacuum cleaner to sanitize the rugs and also will clean partitions, shades and the interior of all the windows, McKenna said.

The village clerk's office has been operating in the Police Department offices across the hall in the Village Hall since Aug. 20. Two employees were sent home ill on Aug. 16 and the office has been closed since Aug. 19.

Village Recreation Director Marianne Gittermann has canceled recreational activities in the Village Hall until she knows that the downstairs facilities are suitable for athletes. She said she would like those facilities studied to ensure no one else gets sick.

"All my programs have been shut down right now," said Mrs. Gittermann. The recreation center has been closed since last Tuesday, she said.

William L. Heinz, a former trustee, suggested that Mrs. Gittermann's staff open up the windows in the gym downstairs and use fans to dry the area out. In addition, the Village Board could use dehumidifiers, but that would be a more expensive solution, he said. He also objected to how the Village Board has held meetings about the problems in clerk's office without prior public notice.

"You've got other people coming into this building. . . . They should have been let known that something was wrong and that section was closed up."

Clerk-Treasurer Bonnie Fyfe Morrow said the meetings were all posted on the door of the Village Hall.

The Village Board will meet at 6 p.m. Oct. 14 with the Town Board for the quarterly Police Commission meeting.

The Police Commission also will interview two candidates for the commissioner's position left vacant when Paul S. Bencal resigned earlier this month. Mayor Richard F. Soluri said the commission will interview F. Robert Sdao and Robert L. Calabrese for the unpaid position in closed sessions.