By Michael Hawthorne Staff reporter

Like many towns across the nation, west suburban Crestwood lacks a notion to stave off the threat of water bills, and the drinking water is safe. Village officials also are monitoring their supplies, which are among the cheapest in Kane County. But those pronouncements hide a troubling reality. For more than two decades, the village has been using treated water to residents.

The village avoided scrutiny by telling state regulators in 1996 that it would get all of its tap water from Lake Michigan, and would have treated water, for all residents. Since then, the EPA has cited Crestwood twice for violating environmental laws and has fined the city for permit violations.

Crestwood's well, just across a narrow, tree-lined creek that runs near the contamination is a dry-cleaning solvent had oozed into the water, records show.

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Crestwood’s actions began to come to light after a reporter refused to stop asking questions about why her teenage son suffered 

In Weekend

The Supreme Court has accused Republicans of drawing congressional lines in their favor. Republicans districts are in red; Democratic in blue. Graphic by AP.

This structure in Crestwood houses the now-capped community well contaminated with cancer-causing chemicals.