



# WMAASA

## Newsletter

SPRING-SUMMER, 2013

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This newsletter is published by the Authority to keep its service area customers up-to-date on current and new projects and activities.

**Our Board Members are:**

Kent Nelson, Chairman  
George W. Lewis, Vice Chairman  
John F. Dunleavy, Secretary  
Eric C. Lindhult, Treasurer  
Steven Covaleski, Ass't Secretary  
Alex Kalnajs, Ass't Treasurer

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**A Reminder Note:** Our Administration Office hours are 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Payments may be put in the mail slot at other times---no cash, please---checks or money orders only!!

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**Sump Pumps Draining into the Sanitary Sewer Cause Big Problems!**

Besides the fact that connecting sump pumps to the sanitary sewer is illegal, it causes big problems! Sump pumps are designed to pump groundwater and rainwater. Sanitary sewer pipes are

designed to carry sewage, not groundwater and rain water.

Usually, the sanitary sewer pipe in the street is only 8 inches in diameter, and often the pipe slope is not very steep. Many 8 inch sewer pipes are installed with a slope of 0.4%. This means that for every 100 feet of pipe, the pipe goes downhill less than 5 inches. This low slope condition is very common in Pennsylvania's sewer collection systems. As you can imagine, there is only so much sewage water that can flow through this pipe.

For this type of sewer pipe, about 300 gallons of water can flow through it in a minute. If more sewage than this tries to get through the pipe in the street, the sewage will surcharge, that is start filling up the sewer lateral pipes that run to the sewer main from houses. When even more sewage or extra water is sent to the sewer pipe, it will surcharge even farther, eventually pushing back into someone's basement. The sewage might come out of a neighbor's basement toilet or washing machine drain for example.

If hooked up to a house's sewer lateral, a half-horsepower sump pump will pump

about 60 gallons to the sewer each minute. That means that if 5 pumps are connected to the sewer, it will be full. Normal sewage flows often fill the sewer main more than half-way already. So if two or three neighbors in a block illegally connect their sump pumps to their sewer lateral, the flow that is trying to get through the sewer main will be more than its capacity of 300 gallons per minute. The sewage in the pipe is going to start backing up!

It is critical that sump pumps discharge to the yard or storm sewer, not to the sanitary sewer. It is illegal to connect your sump pump into your sanitary lateral, and it can cause serious problems!

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The UMHJSA Roads Department will be conducting manhole sealing in the early spring through the summer months. Some of these manholes may be in backyards or rights of way. We ask for your cooperation to access these manholes. This work will help to stop ground water infiltration in the collection system. Questions? Call the Road Crew Supervisor, 215-659-1462.

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**About the rate increase:** The Authority has a huge investment in plant and equipment which serves the ratepayers including the treatment plant, and 125 miles of sewer lines. Our costs and regulatory mandates are constantly increasing. In order to maintain the current level of service, the Board reluctantly decided a rate increase was necessary. Starting March 1, 2013, you will be billed as follows:

Residential	\$6.21/1000 gallons
Minimum	\$31.05/5000 gallons
3-month estimate	\$111.78 per quarter

Commercial	\$7.78/1000 gallons
Minimum	\$38.90/5000 gallons
3-month estimate	\$140.04 per quarter

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**Sewer Backing Up?** If your sewer is backing up, call us before you call a plumber. We'll determine where the problem is, and advise you what needs to be done for free. When it comes to sewer problems, we're the Authority! Call 215-659-1462.

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Remember—water is a finite resource. Conserve and use it wisely!

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SPRING/SUMMER 2013 NEWSLETTER  
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