



# Upper Moreland - Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority

*News*

Spring/Summer - 2017

2875 Terwood Road; Willow Grove, PA 19090

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  
George Hartman, III, Secretary  
Alex Kalnajs, Treasurer  
Pat Battaglia, Ass't Secretary  
Hank Sokolowski, Ass't Treasurer

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## ONLINE BILL PAYING ENTER TO WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD

We appreciate the feedback we have received after rolling out our e-commerce bill paying system last June. This program allows you to receive your bills online and pay your bills electronically through your bank or our UMHJSA.MyGovHub.com portal.

See our website - [www.umhjsa.org](http://www.umhjsa.org) - for additional details on winning a gift card and a tutorial on how to sign up online. Join the five winners from last year.

**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!! Credit card payments can be made at the office during business hours or online, but there is a 2% transaction fee that offsets some of the fees charged to the Authority. Credit or debit card payments, along with electronic checks, can be made through UMHJSA.MyGovHub.com.

**IMPORTANT: Payments must be received by the due date. A 10% penalty will be added to bill payments that are received late.**

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**SEWER BACKING UP?** If your sewer is backing up, call us before you call a plumber. We'll determine if the problem is located in our sewer main or your lateral, and advise you what needs to be done. And we'll do it for free. When it comes to sewer problems, we're the Authority! Call 215-659-1462.

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**Sewer Backup Insurance** - Occasionally roots in the lateral can result in sewer backups inside your property. It is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the lateral and safely remove tree roots and blockages. The Authority recommends that you contact your insurance agent and ask about a sewer backup rider on your home owner's insurance policy.

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**Energy Savings** - The Authority is making improvements needed to replace aging equipment and improve lighting, which has allowed us to decrease our energy usage at the Authority by over 12 percent since last year. Recent lighting improvements with LED bulbs should further reduce our electricity bill by approximately \$12,000 per year.

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**Verizon Cell Phone Tower** - The Authority continues to work with Verizon Wireless to install a cell phone tower on our property by early 2018. This tower will improve reception for the community.

## **Never put these down the drain!**

The sewer system is not a magic way to get rid of all of your waste, because some material can be toxic to our plant, resulting in upsets, or not treated at all before they are discharged into the Pennypack Creek. Items that should NEVER be disposed of in the sanitary sewer include:

**Prescription Drugs and Over-The-Counter Medications** - Wastewater treatment plants were not designed to remove all those chemicals in drugs from the water. The best way to dispose of items like these is to make them undesirable by crushing them and then mixing them with coffee grounds, kitty litter or dirt before sealing them in a plastic bag and disposing in the trash.

**Kitty Litter** (especially clay kitty litter) will sooner or later clog your pipes, and it contains a parasite found in cat waste that is harmful to marine biology. Please just put it in the trash.

**Baby Wipes, Condoms and Dental Floss** – None of these items biodegrade and can cause pipes to clog or damage treatment equipment.

**The only other things that should be going down the drain are soap and water!** People are also known to use the kitchen sink as a trash can. Here is a list of the most common things that people dump into their sinks instead of disposing of them properly:

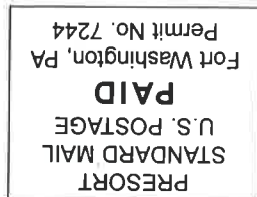
**Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)** - FOG sticks to the interior surface of the sewer pipes, hardens over time and eventually may cause sewage to backup. Let it cool/harden, mix it with other absorbent materials, place it in a bag or container and then throw it in the trash.

**Food** - The best way to get rid of food is to compost what you can and wipe or scrape the remnants in the trash. Use a drain screen in your sink to catch any remaining bits of food as you wash the dishes. Use your garbage disposal sparingly.

**Coffee grounds and eggshells** - These materials should be properly disposed of in the trash. Never put them in the garbage disposal. Crushed eggshells and coffee grounds can also be used for making garden compost.

**Household hazardous materials** - Material such as motor oil, pesticides, paint and solvents should never be poured down the drain. All of these materials are highly toxic and can cause short-term impacts on our plant and long-term damage to the environment. Dispose of these items by contacting the nearest household hazardous waste collection center where these items can be dropped off (e.g., Temple - Ambler - 5/20/17, Abington Jr. High - 6/24/17).

**WIN A \$100 GIFT CARD**  
**See [WWW.UMHJSA.ORG](http://WWW.UMHJSA.ORG) for details**



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