



Upper Moreland - Hatboro Joint Sewer Authority

News

Spring/Summer - 2018

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:

Alex Kalnajs, Chairman
Kent Nelson, Vice Chairman
George W. Lewis, Secretary
George Hartman, III, Treasurer
Hank Sokolowski, Ass't Secretary
Pat Battaglia, Ass't Treasurer

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 still be made at the office during business hours; however, there is a 2% transaction fee that defers some of the fees charged to the Authority. Credit or debit card payments, as well as bank account payments, will be available for online invoice payment through UMHJSA.MyGovHub.com. The online tutorial on our website guides you through the process.

Online Payment: We appreciate those customers that are using our e-commerce bill paying system since it started in June 2016. This program allows you to receive your bills online and pay your bills electronically by credit/debit card or check through your bank or our UMHJSA.MyGovHub.com portal. You can also monitor your account online.

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

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. And we'll do it for free. When it comes to sewer problems, we're the Authority! Call 215-659-1462.

Sewer Backup Insurance - Occasionally roots in your lateral (the pipe that connects your property to our collection system in the street) 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.

Tree roots are a continual problem in any sewer system. Roots in a customer's lateral are the responsibility of the homeowner. Please review our policy at UMHJSA.ORG/FAQ.

Please Do Not Flush These Items Down the Toilet: 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 before they are discharged into the Pennypack Creek. Items that should NEVER be disposed of in the sanitary sewer include:

- Prescription and over-the-counter drugs
- **Flushable wipes (do not flush down the toilet - they can clog your lateral)**
- Fats, oils and grease
- Food (minimize garbage disposer use)
- Coffee grounds, egg shells
- Motor oil, paint, pesticides, fertilizer, solvents, and other household chemicals
- Cat litter

Cured-In-Place Pipe (CIPP) - Since 2009, the Authority has aggressively used CIPP to regain pipe integrity of our aging 125 miles of collection system pipe, with some these pipes being up to 90 years old. This process will keep tree roots out of our pipes and reduce the infiltration and inflow (I/I) into the plant. Reducing the amount of "clean" water that enters during rain and high-water events and requires treatment is critical to the Authority's performance. We anticipated lining around 15,000 feet of pipe this year, bringing our total to around 60,000 feet (~11.3 miles) of cracked/leaking pipe in the past 10 years.

Plant Upgrades – The Authority is spending approximately \$1,650,000 to upgrade our grit collection system, which will improve our ability to remove rags, baby wipes and stones from the wastewater as it enters our plant. This upgrade will improve plant efficiencies and reduce wear and tear on other mechanical systems, such as pumps. We estimate another \$1,500,000 will be spent this year to continue to upgrade our aging treatment system.

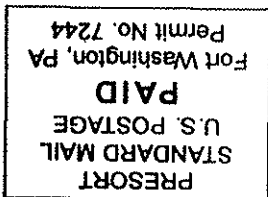
We are also working to eliminate our scrubber towers and treat odoriferous hydrogen sulfide in a more efficient and safer manner (eliminate use of hazardous oxidizing chemicals). Our plant will require additional upgrades in the years to come to continue to provide quality service to our customers and to meet PADEP permit limits.

Verizon Cell Phone Tower – Verizon has started to install a cell phone tower on our property, which should be operational by the end of June. This will improve reception for the community proximate to the Upper Moreland High School.

Energy Efficiency – Over the last several years, the Authority has invested significantly in new equipment to replace aging equipment. We have also invested around \$40,000 in new LED lights to improve lighting. These improvements have helped reduce our electric bill by approximately 20% in the last 4 years, saving the Authority over \$110,000/year.

Sewer Rates – We anticipate sewer rates to remain at the January 1, 2017 rate through at least the end of 2018. Although the Authority's costs continue to increase, and we are continually being required to perform unfunded mandates by regulators, we are working to keep any future increases to a minimum.

Catch Up Billing – Customers who receive their bills in June and July will have their bill cover 4 months instead of 3 months. This one-time adjustment will bring these billing periods to similar delayed billing period for all customers (billed for water used the previous 2 to 5 months, instead of 3 to 6 months).



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UPPER MORELAND-HATBORO JOINT SEWER AUTHORITY
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