



July 12, 2011

A summertime note from your Director of Utility Services:

Summertime is here, and it is a great time to get outdoors to enjoy the weather with family and friends. This time of the year is also a great time to take care of home maintenance.

I wanted to take this time to inform and remind you that your residence is served by a public sanitary sewer system. As infrequent as it may be, this system does experience problems. These periodic problems can include pump station failure, and main line blockage. Please know that the City staff takes pride in working to prevent and avoid these issues, but they do happen even with the best preventive maintenance plan in place.

As a resident and a homeowner that is served by the sewer system, we need your cooperation to prevent some of the issues our system experiences. Please do not dump cooking oil or grease down your drains. Grease build up has the potential to block the entire pipe and result in raw sewage backing up into homes, streets, or waterways. Please keep trash out of toilets. Flushing the wrong items down the toilet damages your household plumbing, the environment, and the wastewater treatment system. If it is not bio-degradable, please put it in the trash instead of the toilet.

The sanitary lateral for your house is your responsibility; it conveys the wastewater from your house to the City's main lines. If your home is 15 years or older you may have a home with clay pipe. Over time, clay pipe can crack and break down which can prevent proper flow from the home, and may cause a back up. Specifically, roots intrude into your line which can block off flow or damage your pipe. Summertime is a great time to get the roots cut out of your line because the roots are seeking water from the pipe line especially if the ground is dry.

Unfortunately, problems occur even with a maintenance plan in place, and sewage has the potential to back up into your home, more often in the basement. If you have a finished basement or plan to finish your basement, you should consider having a sewage backflow device installed in your home for protection. The sewage backflow devices are recommended for property owners if there are plumbing fixtures in the basement. Please know that these devices and installation are at the cost of the private property owner. There are many devices on the market that may be purchased by a homeowner that can limit the potential for sewage backing up in homes.

We recommend that you check with your insurance provider to confirm that your policy covers events such as sewer system problems, and flooding related to water and sewer systems.

If you are interested in more information about your sewer system, alternatives to prevent sewage backups in your home, or how we could be of service to you, please do not hesitate to contact the City of Pataskala Department of Utility Services.

The City of Pataskala Department of Utility Services

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