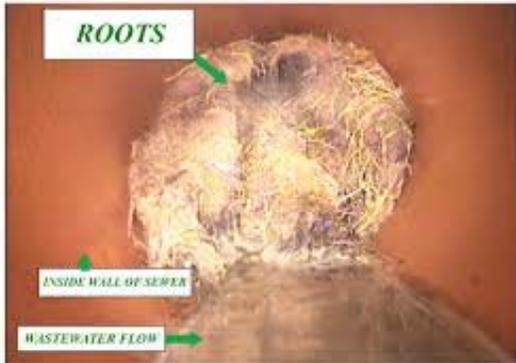




PRIVATE SEWER LATERALS TARGET OF TOWNSHIP SEWER REPAIR PROGRAM



Beginning in September, Cheltenham Township will embark on an eight-year initiative to televise all sewer mains and laterals in the Township. Township residents will receive a report on their lateral (the connection between their home and the main sanitary sewer line). The report will let property owners know whether their lateral is in good condition or in need of repair or replacement.

Typically, a lateral will need to be repaired or replaced when roots are clogging the pipe, pipes are cracked or collapsed, or if joints are



separated. If a lateral is in need of repair or replacement, the property owner will be given 90 days to hire a plumber and make repairs to the satisfaction of the Township. Simple repairs may cost around \$500, while more complicated replacement projects may, on average, cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000.

Cheltenham Township staff and the Board of Commissioners understand that this is a significant cost to property owners. As a result, the Township is working with local banks to offer low-interest loans to provide additional options to fund repairs and/or replacements. Loan products should be made public in July 2016. Residents may also want to look into maintenance plans offered by HomeServe USA through AARP and Aqua. The plans offered through HomeServe USA or other similar companies may cover some types of lateral repairs or replacements.

ACTIONS CHELTENHAM PROPERTY OWNERS SHOULD UNDERTAKE PRIOR TO SANITARY SEWER INSPECTION

- Permanently disconnect and remove any and all downspout, gutter, sump pump, area drain, yard drain, hose and other connections conveying drainage, rainwater, surface water and/or groundwater to the sanitary sewer system.
- Look into the use of rain gardens, rain barrels and/or the disbursement of collected rain water over a large lawn area as an acceptable alternative for the above.
- Replace any missing clean out and/or vent caps on your property.
- Report any damaged or missing manhole covers on your property.
- Avoid placing objects which are not water-soluble in the sanitary sewer system. Other than septic-safe toilet tissue, no other objects should be placed in the toilet except human bodily discharge. Feminine hygiene products and disposable diapers should not be placed in the toilet. **Clearing obstructions from the private sanitary sewer lateral are the responsibility of the property owner.**
- Consider the advisability of entering into a maintenance plan with a company such as HomeServe USA, which is offered through Aqua and AARP. **It is not a requirement of the Private Sanitary Sewer Lateral Maintenance Program of Cheltenham Township for private property owners to enter into an agreement with HomeServe USA; however, it is an option property owners may want to pursue as it will cover some lateral replacement and repair needs..***
- Work with your local lender or financial agency to investigate financing options available to you.
- The Cheltenham Township Code provisions requiring sanitary sewers are located in Chapter 238, entitled "Sewers," of the Township Code, which may be accessed on the Township website, and which is also available for review at the Township Administration Building, and at the Montgomery County Law Library (at the Montgomery County Courthouse).

* **Cheltenham Township makes no guarantees or warranties with regard to the services provided by HomeServe USA.**

Please stay tuned for additional information about funding options and progress of the inspection project. Information will be posted in the following locations throughout the course of this project: www.CheltenhamTownship.org, www.facebook.com/CheltenhamTownship, and Cable Channels 42 and 1960. The Township will also be hosting community meetings throughout the project to help answer questions about the program.

This lateral inspection, maintenance and repair program is part of an ongoing effort to correct inflow and infiltration in the Township's aging sewer system, which the Township has been mandated to correct by both the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Philadelphia Water Department. Cheltenham Township is slated to invest over \$80 Million over the next 8-10 years into the sewer system.

