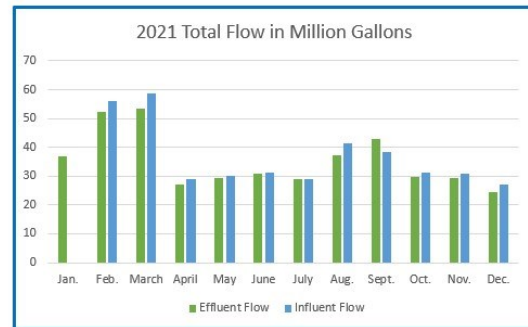
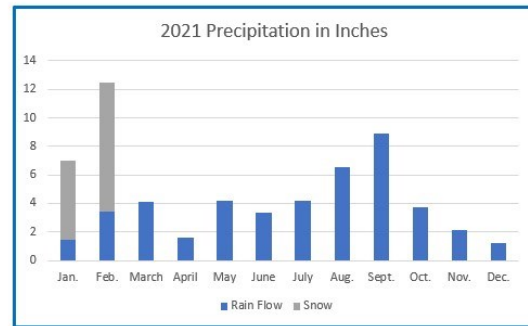


# TIDBITS FROM THE OFFICE

## Rainfall & Flow Totals for 2021



### Avoid Penalties from Misplaced Bills

The Upper Montgomery Joint Authority is pleased to announce that we have chosen a paperless billing solution to add convenience and flexibility for our customers

**SIGN UP NOW**



**THE UPPER MONTGOMERY JOINT AUTHORITY**  
IS NOW OFFERING PAPERLESS E-BILLING

EMAIL YOUR REQUEST TO: [BILLING@UMJA.ORG](mailto:BILLING@UMJA.ORG)  
PLEASE INCLUDE PROPERTY OWNER'S NAME & ADDRESS

**Please note by selecting this option a paper bill will no longer be mailed.**

### In Need of Financial Assistance?

**LIHWAP** may be able to assist low-income households with overdue waster bills in a crisis. For more information visit [www.compass.state.pa.us](http://www.compass.state.pa.us)

### **Emergency Rent & Utility Coalition (ERUC)**

If you need help with rent or utilities, and you or a family member are qualified for unemployment benefits or have experienced a reduction in household income due to the COVID-19 pandemic, be a Montgomery County resident to qualify for ERUC assistance. For more information visit [www.dhs.pa.gov/ERAP/Pages/ERAP.aspx](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/ERAP/Pages/ERAP.aspx) or call 211

**The Open Link** offers programs to help meet the critical needs of income eligible residents by providing financial assistance for basic utilities. To contact the Open Link Call (215) 679-4112

### Conserve Water by using a Rain Barrel

A rain barrel is a system that collects and stores rainwater from your roof before it becomes polluted runoff.

- Helps to mitigate the problem of stormwater runoff.
- Reduces flooding on your property.
- Saves money spent on household water use.
- Provides plants with soft water, free of chlorine, lime, or calcium.
- Conserves water for use during droughts.



Contact the Perkiomen Water Shed to inquire about their rain barrel workshop [www.perkiomenwatershed.org/out-and-about-exploration-series](http://www.perkiomenwatershed.org/out-and-about-exploration-series)



The Upper Montgomery Joint Authority

# Spring Newsletter

March 2022

## A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

**It is a little-known fact that a homeowner is responsible for all sewer lines on their property. Here are some tips on who to call if you're experiencing issues:**

The property's lateral pipe connects a building to the sewer main owned by the Authority. The lateral pipe is located underground and is much wider than the internal pipes in a building. This means it takes much more to clog the lateral pipe than the internal plumbing. The lateral can become blocked from a number of reasons, such as tree roots and grease. Tree roots grow toward moisture and can invade the sewer lateral pipe causing it to clog. Grease is another common cause of clogs. One may think putting grease and hot water down the drain is fine. The problem is grease is certain to cool by the time it reaches the lateral. The grease will lay where it cools and solidifies then grabbing other waste such as toilet paper as it passes by, eventually completely clogging the sewer line.

### **When to Call a Plumber**

If multiple drains in your home start backing up at the same time, the private sewer lateral line may be clogged by tree roots, wipes, grease etc. If sewage is pooling in your front yard, the lateral line may be cracked, broken and in need of replacement. You will need to contact a professional plumbing service to clean out, repair or perhaps replace any faulty lines. By calling a plumber as soon as you notice an issue, you can prevent a more costly fix and damage to your property caused by a sewer backup. Furthermore, sewer backups can cause sanitary issues in the home that can put your health and your family's health at risk.

### **When to Call the Upper Montgomery Joint Authority**

Unless the problem exists in the main line (usually located in the street), the responsibility lies with the homeowner. If the issue is in the mainline, multiple neighboring properties will have similar issues with their sewage not draining properly. If the issue is only affecting one property, it's a sign the issue may be in that property's private lateral. It will be more cost effective to call a plumber if your property is the only one on your street experiencing an issue.

### Have Questions? Feel free to contact us

Upper Montgomery Joint Authority  
1100 Mensch Dam Road, Pennsburg, PA 18073  
Phone: 215.679.5133  
Visit us online @ [www.UMJA.org](http://www.UMJA.org)

Follow us @ <https://www.facebook.com/UpperMontgomeryJointAuthority>





# Superintendent's Message

As you may be aware, The Upper Montgomery Joint Authority has contracted Performance Pipelining Inc. to seal many aging leaky parts in the collection system. In previous newsletters I have spoken about the process of lining the main line and laterals. In addition to lining, PPI is also repairing sunken manholes. Sunken manholes are not only a nuisance for drivers, but they also allow storm water to enter the sewer system. Sunken manholes can compromise the structure of the manhole causing a more expensive fix. For this reason, UMJA contracted PPI to rehabilitate sunken manholes by using Mr. Manhole. The Mr. Manhole system uses a round cut instead of the traditional square cut. The round cut uses 20% less excavation and material. By using this method material, manhours and traffic disruption is kept to a minimum.



## WORK COMPLETED IN COLLECTION SYSTEMS FROM 2019—APRIL 2022

### East Greenville Borough

#### Mainline: 16,982 feet

3<sup>rd</sup> Street, School Alley, Jefferson Street, Cherry Street, Railroad Street, State Street, Water Alley, 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Hamilton Road, Colonial Drive, Blaker Drive & Valley Road.

#### Laterals: 222

3<sup>rd</sup> Street, School Alley, Jefferson Street, Cherry Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Hamilton Road, Railroad Street, Water Alley.

#### Manholes Rehabbed: 32

### Pennsburg Borough

#### Mainline: 14,417 feet

Front St., Silk Alley, Dotts St., Main St., Green Alley, West Side Alley, Quakertown Ave, 5<sup>th</sup> St., Lakeview Terrace, Seminary St., Lake In. Penn St., 3<sup>rd</sup> St., 5<sup>th</sup> St., Long Alley, and the easement near Pennsburg Manor, Ott Rd. in U. Hanover Township.

#### Laterals: 124

Washington St., 4<sup>th</sup> St., Front St., Silk Alley, Macoby St., Penn St., 2<sup>nd</sup> St.

#### Manholes Rehabbed: 5

### Red Hill Borough

#### Mainline: 15,181 feet

2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Main Street, Jefferson Street, Washington Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Stonehaven Drive, Meadowland Drive & Winchester Place and Moyer Road in Upper Hanover Township.

#### Laterals: 44

Sixth Street & Second Street

## WORK IN PROGRESS

**MAINLINE LINING**— In Red Hill Borough- Bitting Alley, Cedar Court, Graber Alley, Jefferson Street & Washington Street W. 6th Street, W. 7th Street, E. 8th Street, 11th Street.

In Pennsburg Borough— W. Eight Street, Eleventh Street, Main Street & Seminary Street.

**LATERAL LINING**- In East Greenville Borough— Cherry Street, Hickory Alley, Jefferson Street, School Alley, State Street, Washington Street.

In Pennsburg Borough— Dotts Street, Lake lane, Long Alley, Seminary Street, 3rd Street & 5th Street.

# OPERATOR'S CORNER

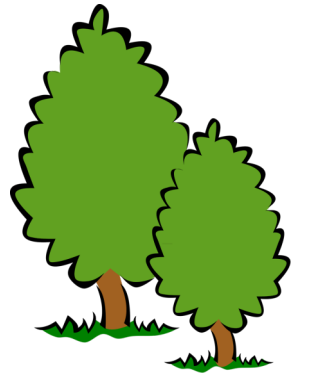
A **mushroom cap** vents the trap. These are black or grey in color and cast iron or plastic. The mushroom cap is typically 6-12" above the surrounding grade. It's typically located close the building and the sewer cleanout.



The **cleanout** is a capped pipe which is connected to your sewer lateral. The cleanout can be cast iron or plastic. It can be located flush to the ground, raised or below ground level. There is usually a 1.5" nut in the center, either raised or in relief. The purpose of the cleanout is for maintenance of the sewer lateral. For this reason, it is critical to make sure you know the location of your property's sewer cleanout. In addition to knowing the location, be sure the sewer cleanout is easily accessible. Never build a patio, deck, place pavers or shrubs blocking access. The reason for this is to ensure you have quick access in case of emergencies. If the lateral becomes clogged, causing sewage to backup into the property, a plumber will need to clear the clog by accessing the cleanout.

### Tips to keep your lateral in good condition

Be mindful of placement when planting shrubs or trees. They should be planted *at least* 10 feet from your sewer line. Trees with large, spreading root systems should be planted *at least* 100 feet away from your utility lines as not to allow any immediate damage.



### Keep cleanout cap secured

The cleanout cap keeps debris such as rocks, leaves and other yard debris from falling down into the lateral. Be sure to check your cleanout cap periodically to make sure it's in good condition. Be mindful when mowing or weed whacking to not damage the cap.



PVC CLEANOUT



CAST IRON CLEANOUT

Property Owners are responsible for all sewer pipes up to the property line. Be aware this may include the section that is located under the sidewalk as well.

