

Programming Partnership | UMJA and Upper Perkiomen High School



ACE Mentor Program of Greater Philadelphia is a free, after-school program which seeks to engage a diverse group of young people in learning more about their career potential in the lucrative careers of architecture, construction, and engineering. We strive to provide high school students with impactful programming; deliver support as they move through their academic and career preparation programs; and partner with mentors and community organizations who have an interest in helping young people pursue their personal and professional goals.



Working in conjunction with Angela Traub from Upper Perkiomen High School and Jennifer Leister from the Upper Montgomery Joint Authority (UMJA), ACE was successfully able to develop an exciting programming initiative for high school students interested in learning more about wastewater management as well as the design & construction industry.

Over the course of eight Tuesday afternoons, high schoolers were given the opportunity to tour the UMJA plant and learn about its operations; interact with Engineers, Inspectors, Construction Professionals, and Architects; discover the benefits of fresh water mussels with Drexel University's Academy of Natural Sciences; and engage in interactive, hands-on activities.



The UMJA/Upper Perkiomen High School partnership is the first of its kind for ACE Greater Philadelphia and has quickly become a model for future partnerships with other community organizations and industry professionals.

Please visit acementorphilly.org (and follow @acementorphilly on social media outlets) to learn more about how ACE supports high school students toward their career goals!



MARCH 2024

SPRING NEWSLETTER

UPPER MONTGOMERY JOINT AUTHORITY



Celebrating a Year of Accomplishments

Throughout 2023, The Upper Montgomery Joint Authority received several awards for our team's ingenuity, hard work, and dedication to serving our community.

Water Environment Federation (WEF)

George W. Burke Jr. Facility Safety Award 2023

Eastern Pennsylvania Water Pollution Control Operators Association (EPWPCOA)

Award for Laboratory Excellence 2023

George L. Parks Memorial Public Education Award 2023

Pennsylvania Water Environment Association (PWEA)

Operator Ingenuity Award 2023

Facility Safety Award Class II 2023



UMJA (Samantha Olier, Lab Supervisor) receiving award for Laboratory Excellence presented by Lew Christy of EPWPCOA.

Funding Received!

In December, the Commonwealth Financing Authority approved the distribution Of Federal American Rescue Funds amounting to \$214.4 Million In H2O Water System Funding and \$105 Million Small Water & Sewer System Funding.

Pennsylvania
WORK SMART. LIVE HAPPY.



Through this announcement, UMJA has been awarded \$423k in grant funding which will be used to continue our sewer rehabilitation program in East Greenville and Pennsburg.

Primary Sludge Pumps



Through awarded grant funding, UMJA purchased two new primary sludge pumps.

The Penn Valley Pumps replaced two outdated progressive cavity pumps from the 1980s. UMJA selected these pumps because of years of success with other units we have onsite. Penn Valley is a local reputable company here in Pennsylvania.

Exciting Upgrade on its Way!



We are proud to announce that we will be upgrading our billing and payment software solutions to Muni-Link by Link Computer Corporation.

For over 35 years, Link Computer Corporation has been developing software in the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast Regions and Muni-Link is the only municipal software on the market with the unique distinction of being designed with input from four Municipal Authorities, that together bill for over 190,000 service accounts.

Muni-Link software will allow you, our valued customers, enhanced security, more payment options, and better access to your account. Sign up for E-billing or pay online with your credit or debit card (there is a service charge for this convenience). You will also be able to schedule regular auto-draft payments through your bank. Creating an account at our customer service portal will allow you the ability to access past bills and payment history from your computer or mobile device.

Stay tuned as we roll out the new software in June of 2024!

Director's Message

UMJA 2023 Rehabilitation Work Completed in the Collection System

East Greenville Borough

1,505 LF of Main CIPP Liner

- Colonial Village Drainage Area

1 Manhole Frame and Cover Rehabilitation and Raised to Grade

Upcoming Plans 2024-2025:

- 913 LF of Main CIPP Liner
- 29 lateral CIPP liners
- 5 manholes frame and cover rehabilitation and raised to grade

Pennsburg Borough

6,884 LF of Main CIPP Liner

- 8th Street
- Seminary Street

4 Lateral T Liners Installed 29 Manholes Frame and Cover Rehabilitation and Raised to Grade

Upcoming Plans 2024-2025:

- 549 LF of Main CIPP Liner
- 164 lateral CIPP liners
- 10 manholes frame and cover rehabilitation and raised to grade

Red Hill Borough

3,820 LF of Main CIPP Liner

- 8th St., W 6th St., W 7th St., Washington St., Jefferson St., Cedar Cr., W 8th St., W 11th St., Main St. ROW & Seminary St.

2 Manhole Frame and Cover Rehabilitation and Raised to Grade

Upcoming Plans 2024-2025:

- 551 LF of Main CIPP Liner
- 181 lateral CIPP liners
- 15 manholes frame and cover rehabilitation and raised to grade

Additional Rehabilitation Work Completed:

6 OBIC Coating Manholes Completed

43 Proper End Seals Installed on Main CIPP Liners at Manholes

- Washington & Hickory Streets

In Action... CIPP Lining Projects



Preparing for Gardening Season: UMJA Fertile Fuel

At UMJA, reuse and recycle is a key goal in the process of treating the wastewater that comes into this plant. One way we accomplish this is to reuse the biosolids our plant creates.

We offer our biosolids FOR FREE at the wastewater treatment plant as long as supplies last.

Biosolids are defined as the decomposed solid waste after sewage sludge has been treated chemically and organically at the treatment plant. The resultant biosolids are rich in nitrogen (fertilizing component) and are safe for use in both landscaping and agriculture applications.

Where you can safely use this fertilizer:

- ✓ Lawns
- ✓ Trees
- ✓ Shrubs
- ✓ Flower Gardens
- ✓ Vegetable Gardens



A Message from the Board: Managing Illegal Connections

UMJA is experiencing high flows in its sanitary sewer system during inclement weather as a result of illegal connections to the UMJA system.

Infiltration and Inflow (I&I), is used to describe the ways ground and storm water gets into the sanitary sewer system. Besides cracked and leaky pipes, illegal connections contribute a large amount of ground and storm water into UMJA's system. An 8-inch sanitary sewer pipe can handle wastewater from approximately 200 homes. However, when 18 sump pumps are connected to the same 8-inch pipe, those 18 homes consume the same capacity as the 200 homes without a sump pump. This puts a strain on UMJA's collection system and treatment facility and increases conveyance and treatment costs and ultimately, necessitating rate increases.

Over the past six years, UMJA has spent approximately \$8,000,000.00 upgrading its collection systems to eliminate sources of I&I. Our efforts in lining projects, smoke testing and placement of several flow meters collecting flow data in the streets has led us to where the potential I&I is taking place. The next step is to find the illegal down spouts, floor drains and sump pumps directly connected to the Sanitary Sewer in lieu of the Storm Sewer.

Article III, Section 11 of the UMJA Rules, Rates and Regulations ("Regulations") prohibits the intentional discharge of groundwater, surface water, subsurface water, storm water or any other waters, other than sewage, into the Authority's System.

To address this serious matter, the UMJA Board has decided to implement a property inspection program for residents. UMJA will begin inspections on properties located where identified I&I issues have been documented. The regulations provide that if illegal hookups exist or leaks are present, the owner must remove the illegal connection(s) and/or repair leaks.

Disconnecting these illegal connections and/or repairing the leaks will significantly reduce the flow of rain water and groundwater to the sanitary sewer system and lessen the amount of water that must be conveyed and treated, saving you and your neighbors money. We appreciate your cooperation as we work to eliminate the Infiltration and Inflow that overwhelms the sanitary sewer system.

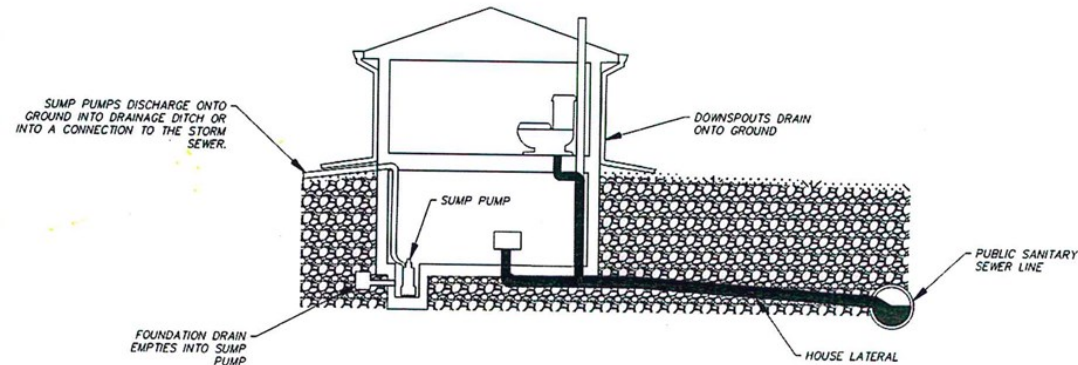
Illegal connections consist of sump pumps, French drains, rain gutters, downspouts and any other connection that allows rainwater and ground water to enter the sewer system.

All of these connections are illegal and can cause serious damage to UMJA's sanitary sewer conveyance system, treatment facility, cause backups to occur, flood customer basements and roadways, contaminate streams, creeks, crops, vegetation and release pathogens into the environment.

We strongly encourage all UMJA customers to participate in these inspections by contacting the UMJA office at: 215-679-5133 or via email: billing@umja.org to set up an inspection appointment.

When a property inspection has been completed, UMJA will apply a \$25.00 credit to the account that will be applied to a future invoice.

Proper Installation of Sump Pumps and Downspouts:



In the Newsfeed...

Congratulations to Kristi, Nick, and Heather on celebrating their 1 year anniversaries with UMJA!



A beautiful sunrise at the treatment plant calls for a team photo!



In December, employees volunteered time making a hot meal for those in need.



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