



GREEN HILL SEWER ASSOCIATION

September 15, 2015

## **Green Hill Sewer Association Needs Your Help**

### **Background**

Waste water treatment for the residents of Hershey's Mill is provided by the Green Hill Sewer Association. The treatment plant, which is located at the HM maintenance area off Chandler Drive, has been in operation since the early eighties.

The waste water is treated by an aerobic process in which micro organisms metabolize the organic material. This is the same process used by Nature to remove contamination. The contamination is purified by naturally occurring microbes, which are in the water, and convert waste into carbon dioxide and water using the oxygen from the air. The process in GHSA plant is accelerated by the introduction of compressed air into the treatment cells.

The plant, which is licensed by the Pennsylvania DEP, has proven to be a reliable, efficient, and economical approach for HM waste water treatment. Currently the cost of waste water treatment by GHSA is significantly lower than the cost in the surrounding townships.

The continued success of the GHSA plant will, however, require the assistance of HM residents. The recent increased use of flushable and wet wipes has caused equipment breakdowns. . In December 2013, the accumulation of wipe material in the system wetwell caused the *failure of both primary pumps*. Each of these failures increased the cost of operation for GHSA. If these equipment breakdowns and operational impacts continue, they will cost GHSA substantial amounts of money to address the issue, which, in turn, could result in rate increases to all HM residents. There are several other waste material problems impacting the plant operation: disposal of pampers and pet waste bags, discharging of insoluble material into the system, and flushing down the toilet unused medications. Finally, GHSA regulations ban the discharge of any groundwater and/or surface water by means of a sump pump and/or floor drain.

### **Flushable Wipes**

These products generally pass through the system piping un-degraded. GHSA plant has a grinder to break up the wipes and other solid material; however, the fibers in the wipes remain and clog the primary pumps. A more detailed discussion of the flushable wipe problem was presented in the May 2015 issue of the Channel 20 Guide. You can read this article on the Channel 20 website, hersheysmill.org. The safest way to dispose of these wipes is in the trash. This is the same approach that should be used for pet waste.

### **Harmful Waste**

The GHSA regulations state that “no person shall discharge into the sewer system any exhaust steam or any oils, tar, grease, gas, benzene or other combustible gases or liquids, any garbage (unless treated in an approved manner), offal, insoluble solids, or other dangerous or harmful substances which would adversely affect the functioning of the sewer system or the processes of sewage treatment or the receiving stream.”

### **Unused Medications**

The chemicals in unused medications present a problem for all waste water treatment plants, not only our HM plant. The treatment processes do not remove these chemicals which pass through the system to the stream and ground beyond the plant. The approved methods of disposal include: placing the non-narcotic item in trash, using approved drug receptacles or local police stations. You can dispose of medical waste in the lobby of the East Goshen Township police station at 1041 Wilmington Pike (Rt. 202), West Chester 19382. The lobby is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

The Green Hill Sewer Association hopes that you will cooperate with us to maintain the effectiveness of our waste water treatment plant. THANK YOU.

**Green Hill Sewer Association**

**Hershey's Mill Home Owners Association Board of Directors**

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