

November 20, 2012

News Release

For Immediate Release

Sewer Insurance Program Not Sanctioned by City

Springfield residents may have received a letter from American Water Resources (AWC) of Missouri, informing them of their sewer service line maintenance responsibility. The letter offers an insurance product called "The Sewer Line Protection Program" that, if purchased, will provide coverage for private sewer lateral repair. While it is true that property owners are responsible for the proper functioning of the private sewer lateral, the City of Springfield is not requiring citizens to purchase a private lateral insurance policy.

Citizens may have heard about the City's pilot project disconnecting private stormwater drainage connections from the city sewer system in certain portions of the city. The pilot project is to prevent rainwater from draining into the sewer system. The City's pilot project is not in any way related to AWC's "Sewer Line Protection Program."

The City sent a letter to American Water Resources of Missouri in response asking them to make it clear in their letter, that their insurance product is not a city-sponsored program and has nothing to do with the work underway on the sewer system by Springfield Clean Water Services.

"We have sent a communication to American Water Resources of Missouri telling them that the City does not want them to include any reference or innuendo that the City of Springfield is partnering, approving or condoning the sale of the private lateral insurance product," explains Steve Meyer, City of Springfield Environmental Services Director.

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