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914.722.1110 • WWW.SCARSDALE.COM

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Contact: Engineering Department
914-722-1106

November 13, 2023

Smoke Testing Begins Tomorrow – Fox Meadow Neighborhood

The Village of Scarsdale is continuing the process of conducting a Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Study to determine locations where excess rainwater and groundwater, also known as inflow and infiltration (I&I), may be entering the sewer pipes and manholes. The Village has a regulatory obligation to identify and ensure remediation of any public or private infrastructure contributing to the problem. Smoke testing, described in more detail below, is used to identify such defects.

Smoke testing, which occurs on a street-by-street basis with direct notification to each property owner in the testing area, involves releasing a non-toxic and non-staining smoke into several manholes, which then travels through the sanitary sewer system and helps to detect breaks, leaks, and other deficiencies. During testing, smoke may be observed discharging from a variety of sources, including roof vents, building foundations, the ground, catch basins, and other locations. Smoke will not enter your home under most circumstances; however, smoke may enter your home if any of the following types of plumbing system deficiencies are present:

- Vents connected to your home’s sewer pipes are inadequate, defective, or improperly installed;
- Traps under sinks, tubs, basins, showers, or other drains are dry, defective, improperly installed, or missing; or
- Pipes, connections, and/or wastewater drain system seals are damaged, defective, improperly installed, or have plugs missing.

Please note that smoke entering a home in the testing area is an indication that the underlying plumbing problem has also likely been allowing sanitary sewer gases and odors to enter the home, potentially contributing to unpleasant odors and, under certain circumstances, unhealthy living conditions. Thus, smoke testing not only helps us to identify and remediate problems with the Village’s sewer infrastructure but may also help you by identifying private plumbing system problems requiring your attention.

Weather permitting, smoke testing will begin tomorrow, November 14. Testing will occur Monday through Friday between the hours of 8AM and 4PM, with each street in the Fox Meadow Neighborhood to be completed the same day. Your presence is not required during the testing.

Homes that are within the study area already received a door tag in advance with additional details. Should you encounter smoke in or around your home during a notified testing period, please contact the field crew performing the smoke testing on your street, using the directions provided below. As a precautionary measure, it is also advised that anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions vacate any home where smoke has entered. If you observe smoke but are not in a testing area, as indicated by the direct notice on your front door and the crews present on the street, please call 911.

Our consultant engineer, Mott MacDonald (MM) will be conducting the smoke testing of the sanitary sewer lines and service connections. If any smoke enters your home, note its source, and inform the testing crew 973-417-8094. The crew will assist you in locating the source of the smoke entering your home. If you have any general questions, you may call Michael Whalen of MM 973-417-8094 or contact the field personnel conducting the tests on site.

For any other general question or concern, please contact the Village Engineering Department at 914-722-1106 or by email at engineering@scarsdale.com. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

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