In the annual newsletter, we typically report the city’s plans and accomplishments in improving and maintaining our sewer and drainage systems. This year, however, we have devoted a portion of this newsletter to showing you some of the common causes of residential sewer and drainage problems.

When called to a resident’s home experiencing a sewer or drainage problem, usually resulting from a storm, the Sewer Division often finds that the issue is located on private property. In this situation, it is the homeowner’s responsibility to address the issue.

Because many of these problems can be prevented, we have included some simple steps that you, as the homeowner, can take to reduce the possibility of experiencing a private property sewer or drainage problem.

Please take time to review this information and assess the drainage systems on your property. We hope you find these preventative maintenance measures helpful.

Mayor Susan A. Drucker
Sinkholes could be a sign of a deeper problem. Eliminate the hazard of tripping and storm water infiltration by filling with #57 limestone. If it could be over a sewer pipe contact a contractor to check for breaks and leaks.

Clean sewer lines regularly and inspect the condition of the pipe. Regular maintenance and clearing the lines prevents root growth inside the pipes. Schedule a contractor to inspect and clean roots and debris from sewer pipes and laterals especially if drainage is slow.

Prepare your gutters and downspouts for the rainy season by removing leaves and debris at least twice a year.

A list of registered contractors is available from the Building Department or online at www.solonohio.org

Grade your property to drain away from your house.

Check for trash, sediment or other debris that may be blocking the inlet or outlet pipes or emergency spillway.

Remove accumulated sediment with a shovel and wheelbarrow if it is blocking water flow. Small amounts can be spread evenly on upland areas.

Mow grass and vegetation and weed whip where necessary. Less frequent mowing causes collection of large amounts of brush which could cause blockages.

Check and clean culvert pipes routinely to prevent minor buildups from escalating into a clogged pipe.

Rake or brush away leaves and debris from yard and driveway drains to prevent them from clogging.

Remove accumulated debris from the bottom of garage, driveway and outdoor drain.

Prepare your property to drain away from your house.

Repair or replace visible shallow broken pipes to prevent storm water from infiltrating your sewer system and eliminate the chance of clogging.

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