Dear Resident and or Home Owner:

Sanitary Sewer overflow has been an ongoing and expensive problem, for many years, in the vicinity of Jeffrey Road and S. Oak Lane. The accumulation of grease (from residential properties) has caused multiple sanitary sewer overflow which is a health hazard for the community.

Ordinance Section 177-10.A Sewer Laterals states:

“All sanitary sewer laterals connected to any and all sewer lines owned by the borough shall be the responsibility of the owner(s) of the property from which said sewer lateral emanates or serves, including that portion of the lateral which lies within the right-of-way and/or curbline of all borough streets and state-designated highways. All construction, reconstruction, maintenance and necessary adjustments required by repairs, maintenance, construction or reconstruction to sewer lines owned or maintained by the borough shall be the responsibility of the owner(s) of the property from which the sewer lateral emanates or serves.”

Sources of cooking oil and grease include: Cooking oil (all types), butter, shortening, lard, and margarine, oil/grease from cooking meats, oil leftover after frying foods, greasy sauces and mayonnaise, mixed juice at the bottom of roasting pans, gravy, sauces, and soups, fatty food scraps, floating fat (on water) after crock pot/dutch oven cooking, oil/grease from roasting or pan sautéing veggies or meat, all dairy products, like milk, cream, sour cream, ice cream and oils that solidify at cool temperatures, like olive oil and coconut oil.

Food waste from garbage disposals can also clog pipes and cause sewer backups. Put food waste into your trash and or compost bin and use sink strainers to catch food waste during dish washing.  Regularly empty the strainer and dispose of waste in your trash can.  The following are tips to properly dispose of cooling oil and grease:

1.  Step 1: Cool oil and grease.

2.  Step 2: Remove oil and grease from pots and pans:

3   Small amounts of oil and grease can be wiped up by paper towels or newspaper and placed in the compost.

4.  Large amounts of grease can be scraped into a container, covered with a lid, and placed in the garbage.

The Borough regularly cleans and videos the entire pubic sewer system for proper operation and maintenance.  Last year alone, the Borough incurred over $7,500 to address sewer overflow (in the vicinity of Jeffrey Road and S Oak Lane) which was caused by excessive amounts of grease coming from residential sewer laterals.

If grease is not immediately and properly addressed by residents, homeowners could be in violation of Ordinance Section 177-10A and held liable and financially responsible for costs related to sanitary sewer overflow conditions.  Residents need to be vigilant in properly disposing of cooking oil and grease, which severely clogs sanitary sewer pipes and causes unnecessary and expensive sanitary sewer overflows.

Feel free to call the Borough if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

John White, Borough Manager