



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
The Charter Township of Plymouth, MI

July 17, 2017

TOWNSHIP TO BEGIN SEWER MANHOLE ‘UNCOVERING’ PROGRAM

In late summer and early fall of 2017, Plymouth Township will conduct a community-wide program to uncover and restore to grade more than 400 buried sanitary sewer manholes that are covered up and inaccessible.

This project is part of a more than \$2 million project to televise, inspect, and inventory the township’s sewer system.

The township has about 3,500 sewer manhole covers. Most are visible and accessible, but some are buried under landscape and are inaccessible.

Manholes are a critical component of the sanitary sewer system as they provide the only means of access to the sewer line for maintenance, clearing blockages, and repairs. Sewer manholes can be located in roads, footpaths, driveways, public spaces, and on private property. They are generally found where the sewer changes direction and where two or more sewers join together.

“When sewer lines in our neighborhoods were originally constructed, manholes were positioned at the established grade to ensure they were visible and accessible for ongoing maintenance, repairs, and to meet liability insurance requirements,” said Supervisor Kurt Heise. “Unfortunately, many of those manhole covers are now covered with dirt, sod, or landscaping materials and are inaccessible.”

“It’s essential that our township’s DPW crews have immediate access to all manholes so we can investigate and fix sewer lines that may be clogged or damaged. Nobody wants to see your basement flooded, or have giant sinkholes in the middle of our neighborhoods as we have seen in other communities,” he added.

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“We also understand that the sewer manhole on your property may have been buried by others, or you are unaware of its location,” said Heise, who noted that a buried manhole has been uncovered in his backyard as well.

All buried manholes will be raised to surface grade for full and permanent exposure and accessibility. Homeowners with a buried manhole(s) on their property will be notified by letter at least two weeks in advance of the uncovering and adjustment work.

Residents with questions regarding the project, or who would like to set up an appointment for a DPW staff person to show the location of a covered manhole on your property, can contact (734) 354-3270 Ext. 3.