From: Ann Lafferty
To: Huang, Wen
Subject: water, ssi park Fw: [NTP] Digest Number 5634
Date: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 8:29:27 AM

Hello Ms. Huang - I am forwarding the discussion below about water issues for neighbors who live down hill from the SSI park. this is just an FYI.
see you on the 12th,
Ann

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com <north-takoma@yahoogroups.com>
To: "north-takoma@yahoogroups.com" <north-takoma@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018, 11:22:45 PM EDT
Subject: [NTP] Digest Number 5634

North Takoma Group

12 Messages **Digest #5634**

1 World-class Jazz music comes to Takoma Park in JUNE by stkorn

2a HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water! by "Marcella Koplowitz"
2b Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water! by "Stephanie Smilay" ssmilay
2c Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water! by "Paul Barkley" monger8088
2d Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water! by "Arlene Koby" arlenekoby
2e Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water! by "Paul Barkley" monger8088

3a Leaf Blowers !!! by "Alan Cohen"
3b Re: Leaf Blowers !!! by kathyjentz
3c Re: Leaf Blowers !!! by "Anne Glusker"
3d Re: Leaf Blowers !!! by "Paul Chrostowski"
3e Re: Leaf Blowers !!! by "Mike's Email"

4 June 6 City Council Meeting Agenda (Mtg. is at New Hampshire Ave.. Re by "Peter Kovar"

Messages

1 World-class Jazz music comes to Takoma Park in JUNE

Tue Jun 5, 2018 7:19 am (PDT) . Posted by: stkorn

Hi all, I just wanted to give a heads-up to any music lovers in the neighborhood about an amazing run of jazz shows happening right here in Takoma Park (at Rhizome) in June.

Jazz Legends such as David Murray, Kahil El'Zabar and William Hooker, International stars such as Paal Nilssen-Love (Norway) and Samuel Blaser Trio (Switzerland) and up & coming players such as Chicago's Gerrit Hatcher and Charlie Kirchen will all be in town playing intimate shows at the Rhizome house.

This is a lineup I think any jazz club in the world would be proud to present, so the fact that this is happening in an all volunteer-run, community supported space is really quite amazing. And for most all we just ask for a $10 suggested donation / pay what you can which all goes to the artists. I hope some of you can come out for a couple of these shows!

Bill Cole Quartet (June 10, 4pm)
Bill Cole Untempered Ensemble (June 10, 7pm)

David Murray & Kahil El'Zabar (June 10, 9:30pm)

William Hooker (June 15, 7:30pm)

Paal Nilssen-Love's Large Unit (June 16, 3pm)

Samuel Blaser Trio, Zach Rowden (June 17, 8pm)

Kevin Sun's Earprint (June 19, 8pm)

Charlie Kirchen's Syfria Trio (June 22, 8pm)

Gerrit Hatcher (June 24, 8pm)

Jeb Bishop/Dan Ruccia (June 26, 8pm)

JD Parran/Jamal Moore/Luke Stewart (June 29, 8pm)

More info on all the shows is available at www.rhizomedc.org http://www.rhizomedc.org

- Steve on Takoma

Reply to sender . Reply to group . Reply via Web Post . All Messages (1) . Top ^

2a HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 9:29 am (PDT) . Posted by: "Marcella Koplowitz"

Hello!
My husband and I bought a house on the corner of Piney Branch and Philadelphia- that had been abandoned for many years. We've poured all of our savings and a lot of love into the house - where we hope to stay for many years and raise our 9 month old son.

In the past ten months, we have had THREE catastrophic storm-water backflow incidents- where storm water has rocketed into our basement through the toilet and caused significant and toxic flooding in our basement. Because this is the third time the water has been too strong for our brand-new backwater valve we've commissioned an extensive investigation into causes of the pressure and discovered that several homes on and around Baltimore avenue have their sump-pumps directly feeding their ground water into the sewer. It is absolutely not the only cause of the problem- we are holding WSSC fully responsible on their end. However, it was enough to be considered a notable factor.

If you know your sump-pump feeds into the sewer line, please consider that it is not only illegal to tap into the sewer lines- but it is significantly affecting some of your neighbors down hill! My husband and I along with our 9 month old greatly appreciate it!

Mara
on Piney Branch

Reply to sender . Reply to group . Reply via Web Post . All Messages (5) . Top ^

2b Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 9:41 am (PDT) . Posted by: "Stephanie Smilay" ssmilay

I don’t live on Baltimore and I don’t have a sump pump, but I just feel compelled to tell you how much I appreciate what you’ve done to that house. Clearly a lot of labor and money has gone into it. Thanks!

Stephanie II on Boston

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 5, 2018, at 12:29 PM, Marcella Koplowitz marcella.koplowitz@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> Hello!
> My husband and I bought a house on the corner of Piney Branch and Philadelphia- that had been abandoned for many years. We've poured all of our savings and a lot of love into the house - where we hope to stay for many years and raise our 9 month old son.
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> Mara
> on Piney Branch
>

Reply to sender . Reply to group . Reply via Web Post . All Messages (5) . Top ^

2c Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 10:24 am (PDT) . Posted by: "Paul Barkley" monger8088

Sump pumps are not the only reason for surcharges in the sanitary sewer system, and in fact I suspect they are a minor factor. Houses built in the 50s like ours, and older homes, often had exterior stairwells with a drain at the bottom. Those drains were connected to the sanitary sewer back then, and it was not illegal.

We forced WSSC to install a backwater check valve at our residence (13 feet below the ground in a caisson) and they maintain it every year. It was the first in the area, because they installed the demo model from the factory in Canada, and it failed because it had a hole in it, and they replaced it.. It almost works, but still lets some backflow occur, probably when something gets trapped in the closing gate and prevents it from fully closing. Fortunately, we know when to expect this and we have a wet vac and can usually keep up with it as it comes up the floor drain in our utility room. Obviously, that doesn’t make it acceptable.

Over the past 10 years, WSSC has sent engineers out to Boston Avenue—I don't know about Piney Branch and Philadelphia—a number of times. They conducted a smoke test, looking for houses on the block with illegal connections, including downspouts, which would put a lot more water in the system in a short period of time than a sump pump would. They did not find ANY connections, which makes me question whether the test was conducted properly.

Water is supposedly getting into the sanitary sewer from improperly sealed lines at the old Silver Spring middle school property, now a park, but no one has ever found any open lines there, despite WSSC searching for them during the smoke test. They have also inserted a balloon in the sewer line downhill from us and opened a hydrant to force a surcharge and test our valve, which worked during that test.

WSSC just replaced sections of the sanitary sewer, as required by the (old) EPA, on Boston because the pipes were cracked and letting sewage seep into the ground. Those cracks were also letting ground water get into the sanitary sewer, and I had hoped that replacing the worst sections (according to video inspection) would fix the problem. I found the WSSC engineer supervising the work and discussed the effect of putting larger diameter pipes in the system upstream from us. He claimed it would mitigate the problem because the pipes could hold more volume before becoming surcharged; I argued that the lower section which still has the old pipes would surcharge anyway, and in fact probably more quickly, because the larger pipes would get more flow to our section. That appears to be the case.

We certainly have enough people in the neighborhood who are suffering with this problem that we should consider bringing pollical and legal pressure to bear on WSSC to fix this properly by replacing the entire system. The last time I talked to an engineer in their office, she claimed that the entire system was properly designed to specs and there was nothing further they could do, and I pointed out that since it doesn't work correctly, that can't possibly be true. WSSC has been forced to replace the entire sanitary sewer system for at least one neighborhood in Maryland that had the same issue, so perhaps the time has come to take action. I can't spearhead this effort, but I'm happy to participate and lend what data I have, if someone else is ready to take the lead. This is an issue that affects the home values in our neighborhood because it must be disclosed during the resale process, so it is in everyone's best interest to get a permanent solution to this.

Regards,
Paul

Blue Crab Software, LLC
http://www.bluecrabsoftware.com/
301.576.6447
202.291.2011

From: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com [mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Marcella Koplowitz marcella.koplowitz@gmail.com [north-takoma]
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:30 PM
To: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [NTP] HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

Hello!
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Mara
on Piney Branch

Reply to sender . Reply to group . Reply via Web Post . All Messages (5) . Top ^

2d Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 6:56 pm (PDT) . Posted by: "Arlene Koby" arlenekoby

Altho I am not in a position to head the group, I am willing to host a meeting. Do you want to wait until after the SSI Park meeting to see if they address the situation, or do you want to meet before that?

There are people in the neighborhood not in this on-line group. Anyone reading this—please check with others you suspect might need a low-tech notice.

Arlene Koby
301-509-8181

On Jun 5, 2018, at 1:24 PM, Paul Barkley pbarkley@bluecrabsoftware.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

Sump pumps are not the only reason for surcharges in the sanitary sewer system, and in fact I suspect they are a minor factor. Houses built in the 50s like ours, and older homes, often had exterior stairwells with a drain at the bottom. Those drains were connected to the sanitary sewer back then, and it was not illegal.

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Regards,

Paul

Blue Crab Software, LLC

http://www.bluecrabsoftware.com/ <http://www.bluecrabsoftware.com/>

301.576.6447

202.291.2011

From: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com <mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com> [mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com <mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com>] On Behalf Of Marcella Koplowitz marcella.koplowitz@gmail.com <mailto:marcella.koplowitz@gmail.com> [north-takoma]
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:30 PM
To: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com <mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com>
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Mara

on Piney Branch

<image003. jpg>< image002. jpg>< image001. jpg>

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2e Re: HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 8:07 pm (PDT) . Posted by: "Paul Barkley" monger8088

I haven’t been following the SSI meetings, but I doubt that anything done there will fix the problem. WSSC was never able to find any ground leaks into improperly capped pipes in the park, so that might have been an urban myth. OTOH, they think their system is designed correctly and clearly it’s not, so perhaps they didn’t look hard enough. This effort is going to require political pressure,

more bad publicity for WSSC, and perhaps a legal effort to make it happen IMO. Just like they only replaced a few sections of sewer on Boston Avenue where it was the worst to satisfy the EPA, they're going to do the absolute minimum they can get away with. They don't even really care that they get clean up bills because $5,000 here and there is a lot cheaper than replacing the system in NTP. We don't go after them anymore because we can't wait days for an overloaded remediation company to show up; it's easier for us to contain the problem in the first place and deal with it ourselves. However, we've reached our limit.

We also need to start acting before a month or so goes by and everyone gets busy with other things and thinks OK, maybe it won't happen again. We all quickly lose the momentum needed to take action.

I would suggest that people who have had these problems contact the list serv and maybe we can start with a meeting. Perhaps Peter has some ideas about how to make this happen.

Regards,
Paul

Blue Crab Software, LLC
http://www.bluecrabsoftware.com/
301.576.6447
202.291.2011

From: Arlene Koby [mailto:arlenekoby@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 9:57 PM
To: Paul Barkley <pbarkley@bluecrabsoftware.com>
Cc: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com
Subject: Re: [NTP] HELP! We're drowning in your sump-pump water!

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On Jun 5, 2018, at 1:24 PM, Paul Barkley pbarkley@bluecrabsoftware.com<mailto:pbarkley@bluecrabsoftware.com> [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com<mailto:north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com>> wrote:

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Regards,
Paul

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From: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com<mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com> [mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com] On Behalf Of Marcella Koplowitz marcella.koplowitz@gmail.com<mailto:marcella.koplowitz@gmail.com> [north-takoma]
Sent: Tuesday, June 5, 2018 12:30 PM
To: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com<mailto:north-takoma@yahoogroups.com>
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3a Leaf Blowers !!!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 11:23 am (PDT) . Posted by: "Alan Cohen"

I've read that in addition to the inordinate amount of noise and air
pollution they disrupt the little ladybugs and god knows whatever else.

and for the sake of the birds and other living creatures - no unnecessary

use pesticides and herbicides !!

https://www.citylab.com/life/2016/11/the-case-against-neighbors-with-leaf-blowers/506324/

Reply to sender . Reply to group . Reply via Web Post . All Messages (5) . Top ^

3b Re: Leaf Blowers !!!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 11:39 am (PDT) . Posted by: kathyjentz

I'll just leave this right here for folks who haven't read it before -

https://medium.com/@kathyjentz/venting-over-leaf-blower-use-a0f04e01e160

Sincerely,
Kathy Jentz
Editor/Publisher
Washington Gardener Magazine - the magazine for gardening enthusiasts in the Mid-Atlantic region.
Visit: washingtongardener.blogspot.com

Follow us on:
http://twitter.com/WDCGardener
facebook.com/WashingtonGardenerMagazine

-----Original Message-----
From: Alan Cohen cohenac@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com>
To: TP <north-takoma@yahoogroups.com>
Sent: Tue, Jun 5, 2018 2:23 pm
Subject: [NTP] Leaf Blowers !!!

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3c Re: Leaf Blowers !!!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 12:07 pm (PDT) . Posted by: "Anne Glusker"

Hear, hear!!

Down with all leaf blowers, now and forever!!

And please, neighbors, if any of you ever see or hear anyone in our yard (7319 Baltimore) using blowers, please please let me know! I've told the lovely boss of the crew that cares for our yard, "NO BLOWERS. RAKES ONLY." But sometimes the message doesn't get through & I've seen — and, arrrgh!, heard — errant blowers in my very own yard.

Anne Glusker
646.404.2806

> On Jun 5, 2018, at 2:23 PM, Alan Cohen cohenac@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
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3d Re: Leaf Blowers !!!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 6:05 pm (PDT) . Posted by: "Paul Chrostowski"

This issue came up close to 10 years ago on the City Task Force on Environmental Action.Steve Davies, who some of you might know, led the effort on this. I have testified several times before council on this to no avail. I tried to get the City's consultant to look at it in the greenhouse gas inventory but they declined. I have also measured noise levels on these things and reported them on this list serve and to the crew leaders all to no avail. It boggles my mind that our so- called "sustainable" city has
Not taken action on this when so many jurisdictions across the country and in Europe have. Most of these blowers, especially the backpack models are probably in violation of the noise ordinance but that never seems to be enforced. Any new ideas I am willing to help with but I've kinda run out

Paul C

Sent from my iPad

> On Jun 5, 2018, at 3:06 PM, Anne Glusker anneglusker@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:

>
> Hear, hear!!
>
> Down with all leaf blowers, now and forever!!
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3e Re: Leaf Blowers !!!

Tue Jun 5, 2018 7:21 pm (PDT) . Posted by: "Mike's Email"

The people who pay the bills for the service need to demand better equipment- protect our quiet-ness, environment and the worker sweating it out so you can chill inside.

Sent from my iPhone

> On Jun 5, 2018, at 9:05 PM, Paul Chrostowski paul.chrostowski@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>
> This issue came up close to 10 years ago on the City Task Force on Environmental Action.Steve Davies, who some of you might know, led the effort on this. I have testified several times before council on this to no avail.. I tried to get the City's consultant to look at it in the greenhouse gas inventory but they declined. I have also measured noise levels on these things and reported them on this list serve and to the crew leaders all to no avail. It boggles my mind that our so- called

“sustainable” city has
>
> Not taken action on this when so many jurisdictions across the country and in Europe have. Most of these blowers, especially the backpack models are probably in violation of the noise ordinance but that never seems to be enforced. Any new ideas I am willing to help with but I’ve kinda run out
>
> Paul C
>
>
> Sent from my iPad
>
>> On Jun 5, 2018, at 3:06 PM, Anne Glusker anneglusker@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>>
>>
>> Hear, hear!!
>>
>> Down with all leaf blowers, now and forever!!
>>
>> And please, neighbors, if any of you ever see or hear anyone in our yard (7319 Baltimore) using blowers, please please let me know! I’ve told the lovely boss of the crew that cares for our yard, “NO BLOWERS. RAKES ONLY..” But sometimes the message doesn’t get through & I’ve seen — and, arrrgh!, heard — errant blowers in my very own yard.
>>
>> ------
>> Anne Glusker
>> 646.404.2806
>>
>>> On Jun 5, 2018, at 2:23 PM, Alan Cohen cohenac@gmail.com [north-takoma] <north-takoma-noreply@yahoogroups.com> wrote:
>>>
>>>
>>> I've read that in addition to the inordinate amount of noise and air pollution they disrupt the little ladybugs and god knows whatever else.
>>>
>>> and for the sake of the birds and other living creatures - no unnecessary use pesticides and herbicides !!
>>>
>>> https://www.citylab.com/life/2016/11/the-case-against-neighbors-with-leaf-blowers/506324/
>>
>
>

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4 June 6 City Council Meeting Agenda (Mtg. is at New Hampshire Ave. Re

Tue Jun 5, 2018 12:03 pm (PDT) . Posted by: "Peter Kovar"

Dear Neighbors:

Here's a link to my write-up on this week's Council meeting agenda:

http://www.councilmemberkovar.com/blog/2018/6/5/agenda-for-june-6-2018-city-council-meeting

Peter Kovar
Takoma Park City Council
Ward One
240-319-6281
www.councilmemberko var.com

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** Use Reply All to reply to the entire list. **

Address for posting messages: north-takoma@yahoogroups.com

Questions, problems, changes?
Contact Mark at takoma@inbox.com

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