

ZACHARY HOUCK, MAYOR

April, 2024

Dear Haddon Heights Resident:

Please be advised that the Mayor and Council authorized our Borough Engineer to provide an in-depth assessment of the Borough's Sanitary Sewer System and have found it to be reaching the end of its useful lifespan. The system was initially constructed in 1911, sections of the gravity sewer system are over 110 years old while the average age of the system as a whole is between 70 and 95 years old. This assessment is currently available for review on the Borough Website at: <u>https://haddonhts.com/community/page/sanitary-sewer-asset-management-planwill</u>. The Borough of Haddon Heights' sanitary sewer system assets consist of three (3) sanitary sewer main, 6,600 linear feet of sanitary sewer force main, and 414 sanitary sewer structures (manholes and chambers). The maintenance of this collection system is the responsibility of the Borough. All treatment of sewage and conveyance out of Haddon Heights to the Camden Treatment Plant is the responsibility of the CCMUA.

Due to these definitive findings and in order to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the Borough of Haddon Heights and to keep the system functioning properly, <u>Ordinance 2024:1539</u> was adopted by the Mayor and Council in January of this year. The Ordinance and additional information can be found on the Borough's website at <u>https://haddonhts.com/community/page/sanitary-sewer-service-fee</u>.

Accordingly, the Borough of Haddon Heights will be implementing a Sanitary Sewer Service Fee this year. The purpose of the Sanitary Sewer Service Fee is to fund Capital Improvement Programs for upgrading, improving, and repairing the current sanitary sewer system. Failure to do so would result in expensive emergency repairs which routinely cost well over three times the amount of normal repair and maintenance. We are proactively preparing to refurbish our sanitary sewer collection system to avoid further deterioration and the inevitable failures from reoccurring.

The new Sewer Utility Bills will be mailed out to each residence with your tax bill in June. The annual fee will be \$120 per year or \$10 per month. This amount is lower or consistent with surrounding communities, all of which impose a Sanitary Sewer Fee to maintain their respective collection systems. Another consideration included the potential sale of the sewer system which would only lead to significantly increased rates in the long-term and thus the Borough rejected this approach. Payment will be due by August 1<sup>st</sup>. Some residences may qualify for an exemption from the fee.

- residents sixty-five years old or older (as of December 31, 2023)
- permanently or totally disabled residents
- the surviving spouse of the household who is over the age of fifty-five

Should you qualify for one of these exemptions, you must complete the enclosed <u>Sewer Service Fee</u> <u>Exemption Application</u> enclosed with this letter. Please submit the completed application along with the required documentation to the Borough Hall, 625 Station Avenue, before May 15, 2024.

Should you have any questions, you can contact the Borough Hall Administrative Offices at 856-547-7164, ext. 2.

Sincerely,

Mayor Zachary Houck