



W.S.M.P.A.



NEWSLETTER

Professionals Dedicated to Health and Sanitation

Washington Suburban Master Plumbers Association
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MEETING NOTICE

**WSMPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2018**

Washington Suburban Master Plumbers Association's monthly general membership meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 21, 2018**. This meeting will be held at Knights of Columbus (College Park).

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
9450 CHERRY HILL ROAD
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740**

- 6:00p Call to Order
 - Sponsor Presentation/Training
 - 7:00p Break
 - 7:30p **COMPLIMENTARY** Buffet Dinner
 - 8:00p Business Meeting
 - 8:30p Adjourn
- AWESOME Door Prize Drawing(s)**

This meeting is being sponsored by:



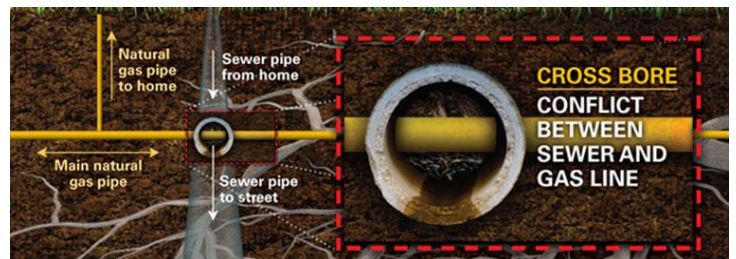
featuring



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



At last month's general membership meeting, we started a conversation on how to deal with line boring incidents in sewer lines. This is a serious situation; the lives of you, your employees, and your customers are at risk. Over the past 20 years or so, utility companies have been using Trenchless Technology (line boring) to install electric, gas, cable, and other utilities. The benefits eliminate trenching and disrupting yards, sidewalks, and driveways. The downside to this procedure is called cross boring. This is when the boring company accidentally penetrates a private building sewer from the house to the main.



I was surprised to hear how often this has happened. And, in most cases the line borer has no idea he has made a cross bore of the building sewer until the sewer starts to back up. This of course is where we come into a dangerous situation. We get out the K-1500 sewer machine, attach the root cutter head onto the cable, and proceed to snake the sewer. As you get close to the property line you hit a hard stoppage believing it is a root ball. Is it a root ball? Is it a 6,000 volt power line? Is it a high pressure gas line you are grinding on?

The utility committee has proposed a couple suggestions.

1. Call before you clear:
 - a. If a customer calls with a main stoppage, you will be required to call Miss Utility to mark the property before you put a snake down the sewer.
 - b. If you believe the marked utilities cross the sewer, you will be required to dig up and expose the building sewer to verify it is not a cross bore.
2. Camera the sewer to verify it is not a cross bore situation.

Obviously, neither of the suggestions is the answer. I cannot see us digging up every house that has a stoppage and having the homeowner's burden this cost when 99% of the stoppages are not due to a cross bore. We also cannot visually see inside a building sewer that has an active stoppage, so the camera is not a solution either.

We feel the only answer is to be proactive. Electric and gas companies need to camera all building sewers in neighborhoods where line boring has been performed—past, present, and future. This is the only way to verify the building sewer is clear from any possible cross bore.

In addition, we as plumbers need to be cautious.

1. Ask your customers if they have noticed any work in the neighborhood.
2. Does the property have a history of stoppages?
3. Use a retriever or spring head instead of a cutter head.
4. Run the machine in reverse when possible.

Please be safe! Be aware this is an issue that is nationwide, and we are working with the utilities to come up with a solution.

John "J.R." Seymour, 2018 President

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



General Membership Meeting

March 21, 2018

April 18, 2018

May 16, 2018

72nd Annual Dinner Dance

"The Plumbers' Ball"

February 2, 2019

WSMPA 2018 Golf Tournament

October 19, 2018

The next Board of Directors Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 2nd @ EJ's Provision Co.

WSSC

WSSC will be closed on the following upcoming holiday(s):

- Monday, May 28th (Memorial Day)

This year, WSSC celebrates 100 years of service.



WSMPA GOLF TOURNAMENT

Save the Date!

October 19, 2018

8AM Check In • 9AM Shot Gun Start

Rattlewood Golf Course

13501 Penn Shop Road • Mt. Airy, MD 21771

EDUCATION

18-HR JOURNEYMAN/MASTER TEST REVIEWS

Location

JAMES A. WHEAT & SONS, INC.
7832 Beechcraft Avenue • Gaithersburg, MD 20879

Plumber

6 Weeknights • 6p-9p/night
Starts March 13th

Gasfitter

6 Weeknights • 6p-9p/night
Starts April 2nd

COST: \$400 Members / \$450 Non-members

COST: \$400 Members / \$450 Non-members

Download Application(s) from WSMPTA's website
www.wsmpta.com under Education or call 301-466-7747.

MISS UTILITY

Chuck Small

Below are a few reminders from our Miss Utility Committee:

- When you arrive on a jobsite, take pictures of all of the marks with a reference point to verify where the marks are. Also, if there are no marks for a clear ticket, take pictures that clearly show there are no marks.
- Everyone involved in an excavation is required to have a Miss Utility Ticket Number for that job. So, if you hire a backhoe to do your digging, verify ticket for each job you have them do.
- Fines for damage or working without a ticket are going up and they double for each occurrence.

FOR SALE



SAMPLE PICTURE

Heavy-Duty Job Box

60" Length
27.75" Height
24" Width

USED, but in GREAT CONDITION!

For more information, contact
Kevin Black @ 301-776-7520.

(Opinions expressed by various authors are those of the author and not necessarily those of this association, the board of directors or the Newsletter Committee.)

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