

Bill and Julie Houck

In our discussions about sewers in Marion we have heard from many different people and discussed many different issues. A lot of the issues that we have heard center around aging infrastructure and different EPA regulations. In fact, yesterday there was an article in the newspaper that discussed this very thing, but the sewer issue I bring before you today deals with infrastructure that is old, but is still much younger than some of the lines referenced in the newspaper yesterday by about 50 years. The issues that I am going to reference do not necessarily institute old infrastructure, but possibly one of poor design and execution that happened long before any of us in this room tonight were in local politics. I am talking about sewer issues on Cambridge Ave, specifically those of my neighbors Billy and Julie Houck, who live at 957 Cambridge Ave.

Bill and Julie have lived at their residence since JFK was in office and have only started to have sewer problems in the last 20 years. When they first lived on Cambridge, the street was not part of the city and residents had septic tanks and wells. The thing that sets Bill and Julie apart from many other Marionites that have had sewer issues is that they have had the means necessary to help fix their sewer issues. The Houck's have shared some of their bills for sewer issues with me, but admittedly some of these bills are over a decade old and they were not able to locate some of them. I can also say that Bill has done his homework and from talking to him I was able to learn a great deal about his sewer issues and why they may have happened and why they may still be happening.

In the 60's Smith Hospital built ProPark Forcemain Lift Station with 8" line running thru Cambridge emptying into 20' trunkline on Virginia - (Cambridge had septic systems and no sewers at this time)

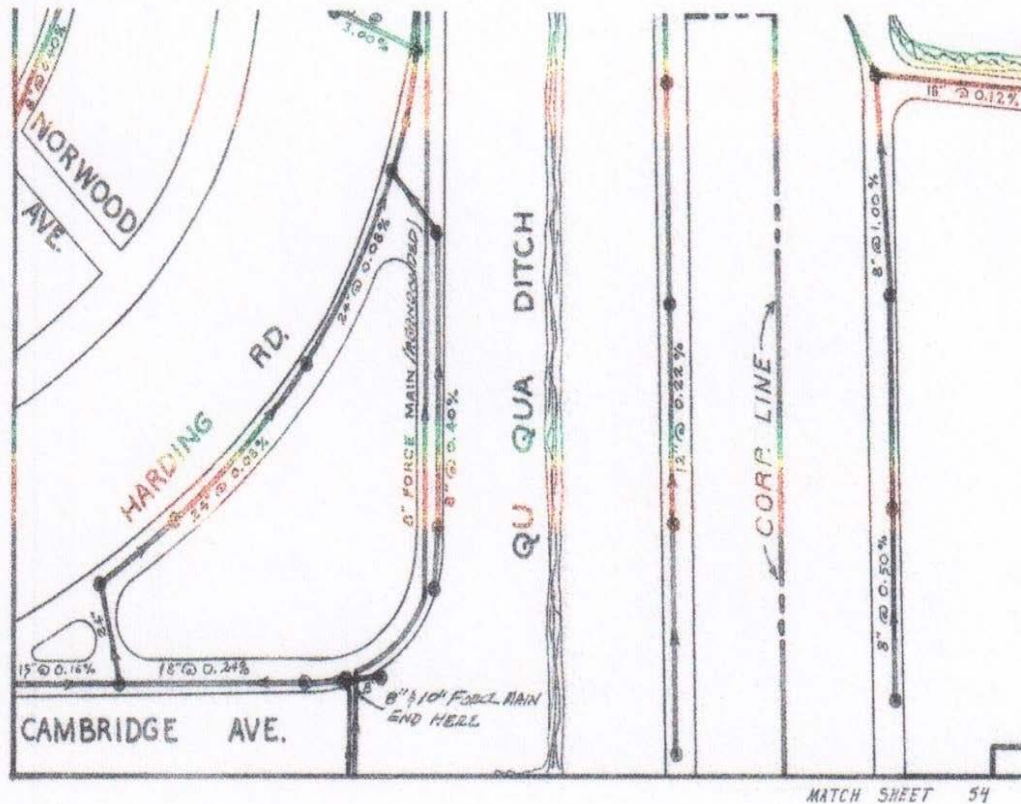
In 2001 Marion built Barks Rd Lift Station which pumps directly to ProPark and at same time they ABANDONED the section of original 8" line from Cambridge to Virginia. They added a 10" line @ProPark with both lines (3 pumps) constantly pumping into sewers on Cambridge. This is the start of 18" Cambridge Gravity Main, which is higher than Bill and Julie's basement.

Roughly 6-8 years ago the city bolted down a manhole directly across from the Houck's and eliminated another. It was shortly after this that the Houck's started to have problems with sewer gas and basement flooding. They were told that their lines had tree roots, but a camera in their lateral disproved this as storm water from their sump

couldn't enter their lateral because it was full of sewage. Here is a picture of a manhole in my neighbor's yard after a hard heavy run to prove the point of sewage being blasted through the force main during heavy rains. This manhole is one of the ones that is not bolted down, but also sits across and adjacent from The Houck's House showing the sewage and the force with which it comes pouring out and into the sewer lines on the street.



Below is a map of the sewers I am speaking about. You will notice there is an 8-10 pipe that comes in from the force main. Directly in front of that pipe on the other side of the street is The Houck's. You will also notice that the pipe to that goes off to left is listed as larger, which may be why the manholes on the side of Cambridge that goes toward Vernon Heights Blvd never overflow with sewage, but various manholes on Cambridge and Harding Rd. tend to overflow, specifically the one across from the Houck's that is shown above and the one at the Corner of Harding Rd and Virginia.



The Houck's problem became very severe as the force main pressure put breaks in their sewer line 2 different times, and several times pressures were enough to cause their downstairs toilets to overflow and spew sewage. There were times that they could not stay in their house. Bill has stated that they have spent over \$15,000 to get this fixed and included in this packet you will see some of those bills. Also during this time, Julie came down with a serious illness that Bill is convinced was caused by the excess sewer gas in his house.

Thankfully The Houck's were able to put in a check valve and keep sewage out of their house, but during heavy rains the pressure on their check valve is so great that they are oftentimes not able to flush their toilets.

As I have already stated, Bill and Julie are decades long residents of Marion, Ohio and are both 86 years old and thankfully they are in excellent health. Bill and Julie have both stated that they love their home and enjoy living in Marion, but Bill has stated to me that when the time comes for him to sell, how could he in good conscience sell his house to a young family knowing the problems that were going to inherit? He feels as if a house that he raised family in and has worked his whole life to keep beautiful, has been rendered worthless by sewer problems that he did not create, but has had to fix.

I have found Bill and his wife Julie to be wonderful people who just want their problem fixed and not have to worry every time the forecast calls for heavy rain. They have had several different council members try in vain to help them. I do not know what we can do as a city to help them, but I know others have tried. I know that all throughout Marion there are others who have similar issues and are also wondering where the help is.

I tell you this story not to blame anyone but to shine a light on an issue and to tell the story of two of my neighbors in public hoping that somebody can help them.



Invoice

6632 Almendinger Road
Prospect, Ohio 43342
Office: 740 726-2067

Date	Invoice #
10/28/2016	16-4808

Bill To BILL HOUCK 957 CAMBRIDGE AVE. MARION, OHIO 43302
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P.O. No.	Terms
sewer issues	Due on receipt

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
1	06/25/15 CAMERA LINE	150.00	150.00
1	04/25/16 USED CABLE MACHINE, COULD NOT GET PAST 65'. USED CART JETTER TO OPEN BUT STILL PROBLEM AT 65'. USED CAMERA TO LOCATE AT 65. NEEDS REPAIRED RIGHT AT EDGE OF ROAD	250.00	250.00
1	06/21/16 CART JETTER	125.00	125.00
1	10/02/16 CART JETTER	125.00	125.00
	10/26/16 REPAIRED SEWER BROKEN UNDER WATER LINE AND INSTALLED BACKFLOW VALVE.		
1	MINI EXCAVATOR	450.00	450.00
10.5	LABOR MAN HOURS	55.00	577.50
1	MATERIAL.	637.33	637.33
	WE WILL BILL RESTORATION WHEN IT IS COMPLETED		
2% PER MONTH FINANCE FEE ON INVOICES PAST 30 DAYS		Total	\$2,314.83

UTILITY CONTRACTOR • COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL



Invoice

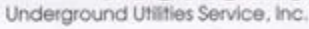
6632 Almendinger Road
Prospect, Ohio 43342
Office: 740 726-2067

Date	Invoice #
4/26/2014	14-4102

Bill To WILLIAM HOUCK 957 CAMBRIDGE AVENUE MARION, OHIO 43302

P.O. No.	Terms
SEWER ISSUES	Due on receipt

Quantity	Description	Rate	Amount
	INVESTIGATE SEWER, REMOVE DAMAGED SOIL PIPE AND REPLACE, REINVESTIGATE MORE ISSUES AND INSTALLED NEW SEWER		
8	MINI EXCAVATOR	80.00	640.00
1	SKID STEER	450.00	450.00
2	DUMP TRUCK	68.00	136.00
1	STONE	127.53	127.53
1	MATERIAL	711.06	711.06
39	LABOR MAN HOURS	55.00	2,145.00
1	JET TRUCK	250.00	250.00
2% PER MONTH FINANCE FEE ON INVOICES PAST 30 DAYS			
Total			\$4,459.59



6632 Almendinger Road
Prospect, Ohio 43342
Office: 740-726-2067

CK 107. 4/30 248-

P.O. No.	Terms
CAMERA	Due on receipt

2% PER MONTH FINANCE FEE ON INVOICES PAST 30 DAYS

Total	\$218.00
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