Protecting your home from Sewage Backup

The MLWSSD works hard to keep our sewer system as reliable as possible. However, some events, such as inclement weather, can seriously affect the proper operation of our equipment. To protect your home MLWSSD recommends the following:

* Consult a licensed plumber to determine if installing a backwater valve in your individual plumbing system is appropriate. Investing in this protective device could save you countless dollars should a problem occur.
* Check your homeowners insurance? Do you have coverage for sewage back-ups? Most policies typically exclude this coverage, check with your agent as you may need to purchase an insurance rider for this.
* Maintain your service line/lateral line. Have them cleaned.

This is one of the most overlooked tasks, yet it has the potential to cause nasty water damage with expensive cleanup costs. Property owners are responsible for clearing any blockage in the service line (or sometimes referred to as a lateral line) between the home and the sewer main. Blockages are typically caused by roots, grease, and improper disposal of items. Tree roots can enter the sanitary sewer system at joints and cracks in the service line. Grease can solidify in the sewer lines and restrict other waste from flowing through. The lines can be blocked by items like disposable diapers, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, washing machine lint, disposable wipes, or other items improperly flushed down the drain or toilet. Consult a professional sewer and draining company who will take the time to discuss your options and tailor a maintenance program that is effective, affordable and will keep you flowing trouble free in your service/lateral lines.

* Illegal Plumbing Connections: Do not connect French drains, sump pumps, roof gutter drains or foundation drains to your sanitary sewer service. It is illegal and will cause debris and silt to clog your service line. Consult a plumber to correct any illegal connections.