For Immediate Release  
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Testing of the City’s Sewer System Begins this Month

Harrisonburg, Va. – The Public Utilities Department will begin the annual testing of Harrisonburg’s sanitary sewer system.

Testing will begin on August 12 and will be completed by mid-October.

Field personnel with the Public Utilities Department will release a non-toxic and non-staining test smoke into the manholes, which will travel through the sanitary sewer system. The purpose of this testing is to detect any breaks or leaks in the city’s system and make appropriate repairs, if necessary.

The city has a total of 190 miles of sewer lines and a portion of those lines are tested each year.

Residents should expect to see smoke being released from plumbing vents, which are located on the roof top. Smoke being released from these vents is a clear indication of a properly installed pluming system.

Areas of the city (in order), where the sewer lines will be tested between August and October:

1. South Mason Street  
2. West View Street  
3. Franklin Street  
4. South Main Street  
5. Ash Tree Lane  
6. Campbell Street  
7. Crescent Drive  
8. Highland Avenue  
9. Long Avenue  
10. Lee Avenue  
11. 2nd Street  
12. Collicello Street  
13. Massanutten Street  
14. Liberty Street  
15. Washington Street  
16. East Weaver Street  
17. Valley Street  
18. Myers Avenue  
19. Martin Luther King, Jr. Way  
20. Green Street  
21. North Willow Street  
22. 3rd Street

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Tips for residents:

- It is recommended to pour one gallon of water into the drain traps of floors, sinks, showers and tubs. This will prevent sewer gases or smoke from entering a home or business.

- If the non-toxic smoke enters a residence or business, this is a sign of a defect in the plumbing on the residential end. When this occurs, there is no need to contact emergency services. Open a window or door for ventilation, note the location of the smoke and contact a qualified plumber.

- Anyone with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions should not stay in a building where smoke has entered, as a precautionary measure.

This schedule can be subject to change due to weather conditions and unforeseen maintenance on equipment. Updates for this testing will be provided on the city’s website, Harrisonburg, VA on Facebook, and @HarrisonburgVA.

Questions? Contact the Public Utilities Department at 540-434-9959.

Who will notify you if an emergency-related event is happening in Harrisonburg or Rockingham County? Sign up to receive free alerts through the Harrisonburg and Rockingham County Emergency Alert System by visiting www.HREmergencyAlert.com.

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