

PUBLIC SEWER STATUS VERIFIED BY

ISSUE DATE: 6/8/11

PERMIT

P 535242

APPROVAL DATE: _____

A REPAIR

Minor Septic Repair ON-SITE SEWAGE DISPOSAL SYSTEM HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Legacy Contracting IS PERMITTED TO INSTALL ALTER

ADDRESS: 1538 Manchester Rd, Westminster PHONE NUMBER: 410-840-8766

SUBDIVISION: _____ LOT NUMBER: _____

ADDRESS: 12337 Pan Spring Ct PROPERTY OWNER: Reid Nichols

SEPTIC TANK CAPACITY (GALLONS): N/A

PUMP CHAMBER CAPACITY (GALLONS): _____

NUMBER OF BEDROOMS: _____

SQUARE FEET OF HOUSE: _____

LINEAR FEET OF TRENCH REQUIRED: _____

TRENCHES:	
LOCATION:	
PURPOSE:	Replace distribution box and pipes from box to trenches and drywell.

PLANS APPROVED: Jeff Williams DATE: 6/8/2011

- NOTE: PERMIT VOID AFTER 2 YEARS
- NOTE: CONTRACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR SCHEDULING A PRE-CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION FOR ALL INSTALLATIONS
- NOTE: WATERTIGHT SEPTIC TANKS REQUIRED
- NOTE: ALL PARTS OF SEPTIC SYSTEM SHALL BE 100 FEET FROM ANY WATER WELL
- NOTE: MANHOLE RISERS REQUIRED ON ALL SEPTIC TANKS AND PUMP CHAMBERS
- NOTE: AN ELECTRICAL PERMIT IS REQUIRED FOR INSTALLATION OF ANY ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS OF THE SYSTEM

NEITHER THE HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL OR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SUCCESSFUL OPERATION OF ANY SYSTEM PERMITTEE RESPONSIBLE FOR OBTAINING FINAL APPROVAL ON THIS PERMIT CALL 410-313-1771 FOR INSPECTION OF SEPTIC SYSTEM

NOT TO SCALE

ROAD NAME

TRENCH/DRAINFIELD DATA

WIDTH INLET BOTTOM

NUMBER OF TRENCHES _____

TOTAL LENGTH _____

ABSORPTION AREA _____

DISTRIBUTION BOX LEVEL _____

DISTRIBUTION BOX BAFFLE _____

DISTRIBUTION BOX PORT _____

SEPTIC TANK DATA

SEPTIC TANK 1 LEVEL _____

MANUFACTURER _____

CAPACITY _____ GAL

SEAM LOC _____

TANK LID DEPTH _____

BAFFLES _____

BAFFLE FILTER _____

MANHOLE LOC _____

6" PORT LOC _____

WATERTIGHT TEST _____

SLOTTED _____

DATE ON LID _____

PUMP/SEPTIC TANK LEVEL _____

MANUFACTURER _____

CAPACITY _____ GAL

SEAM LOC _____

TANK LID DEPTH _____

BAFFLES _____

BAFFLE FILTER _____

MANHOLE LOC _____

6" PORT LOC _____

WATERTIGHT TEST _____

SLOTTED _____

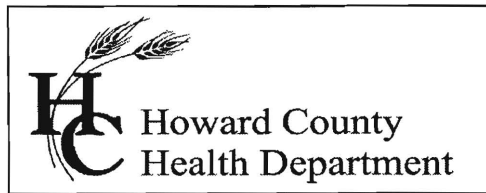
DATE ON LID _____

PRE-CONSTRUCTION:

INSTALLATION:

6/8/11 - George Schoody installed D-box + pipes w/o a permit several weeks ago and backfilled without an inspection. I observed digital photos from him showing a d-box with speed levelers + water level to all ~~the~~ outlet pipes and a new pipe installed to the drywell. As no inspection was performed during installation, the health dept. cannot ~~approve~~ the ~~work~~ repairs. ~~See~~ ~~attached~~ ~~photos~~ ~~for~~ ~~approval~~

FINAL INSPECTOR Jeff Williams . DATE OF APPROVAL _____



7178 Columbia Gateway Drive, Columbia MD 21046
(410) 313-2640 Fax (410) 313-2648
TDD (410) 313-2323 Toll Free 1-866-313-6300
Website: www.hchealth.org

Peter L. Beilenson, M.D., M.P.H., Health Officer

March 21, 2011

Mr. C. Reid Nichols
12337 Pans Spring Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
(Sent via email rnichols@mirc-us.com)

RE: Sink hole @ 12337 Pans Spring Court

Dear Sir:

I have reviewed your email to Mr. Bricker and Howard County Health Department records. Health Department records indicate that when the drywell failed in 1989 a trench was installed beyond the drywell. That was common practice at that time. When that system was repaired in 2004, a distribution box with speed levelers was installed in order to maintain the existing drywell/trench system. Again, the repair was completed according to current practice at that time. It is still common practice to maintain the old absorption system with a valve or a distribution box with speed levelers adjusted to allow wastewater to flow into the old system only when the new system begins to fail. However, beginning in approximately early 2006 all drywells were required to be pumped and filled in as a condition of the repair permit. Currently, new drywells constructed with block walls and concrete lids are not permitted because they are dangerous to construct and are prone to collapsing over time. The two repairs to the on-site sewage disposal system on your property occurred before drywells were required to be filled.

With regard to the settling over the trenches, that is a contract issue. Some settling over a trench is expected, but responsibility for final grading, type of seeding, etc. differs from contract to contract. The Health Department does not have regulatory responsibility for these types of issues.

It is unfortunate that you are experiencing this situation on your property, but I do not share your opinion that there is evidence at this point in time that indicates that the problem is a result of installation shortcuts. Nor do I conclude that Health Department did not properly inspect the installation. Sketch plans are just a sketch for the purpose of being able to locate the system components and not intended to be a professionally surveyed scaled drawing. A professionally surveyed scaled drawing would be too costly for the intended purpose.

At this point I would encourage you hire a contractor to pump and fill the drywell before the sink hole worsens or the drywell collapses. Additionally, if the cause of the sink hole in the area of the distribution box is not due to a structural issue with the drywell, the cause needs to be determined and corrected. This work would need to be completed under a permit for a minor septic repair. Attached, please find a picture and our field notes from the site inspection. If you have any question or would like to discuss this matter, I may be reached at (410) 313-2651.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael J. Davis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" and last name "Davis" clearly distinguishable.

Michael J. Davis
Assistant Director
Bureau of Environmental Health

C: Mr. Skipper
Mr. Heaps

Davis J., Michael

From: Bricker , Robert
Sent: Friday, March 18, 2011 8:47 AM
To: Davis J., Michael; Jeffery Williams
Subject: FW: Drainage Fields and Dry Well

From: Charles Reid Nichols [mailto:rnichols@mirc-us.com]
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2011 11:25 PM
To: Bricker , Robert
Cc: water@umd.edu; hreed@umd.edu
Subject: Drainage Fields and Dry Well

Mr. Robert Bricker, R.S. CPSS
Environmental Sanitarian Supervisor
Bureau of Environmental Health
Howard County Health Department
7178 Columbia Gateway Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Dear Mr. Becker:

Thank you for looking into the septic tank and drain field for 12337 Pans Spring Court on 15 March 2010 and speaking with those involved with the August 2004 septic system modifications on 16 March 2010. As I mentioned to your colleagues, the dry well was not collapsed during August 2004 when the prior owner was required to add a new drainage field in order to sell the home to me. It is now caving in and creating a safety risk for people and animals in the backyard. This phenomena is occurring because the dry well was not filled nor inspected prior to adding a new drainage field and makes me wonder if the distribution box is working properly. If the dry well was intended to be part of the drainage system and it was not working properly in the first place, then maybe it should not have been part of the overall county approved drainage system.

As a longtime Howard County resident, I can only trust that inspection services are done in the best interest of safety and using the most current technologies. I have been provided with conflicting information by people involved in maintenance of 12337 Pans Spring Court septic system, specifically the 2004 renovation that was required for sale of this property. This work was allegedly completed satisfactorily in accordance to county procedures (personal conversations with Mr. Mike Skipper owner of Fyock Septic Services). However, the 2004 work was not done in accordance to normal standards as indicated by Mr. Ronnie Heaps from J.M. Contracting, LLC. Mr. Mike Skipper (240-882-9909) put in the new drainage field without removing the old dry well for the past owner of my residence. He also connected the distribution box to both the new drainage trench and the existing dry well. Mr. Ronnie Heaps (443-277-7526) has indicated that this is a bad practice and one that would not have been approved on his building/work permits. He would have pumped, collapsed, and filled in the old dry well as part of the 2004 effort. Mr Heaps also indicated that he is in the processes of repairing other septic systems that have been maintained by Fyock Septic Services. I also know that there was little or no soil compaction in the new trench based on the amount of fill that I have been placing along the new trench for the past six years.

As a home buyer, I am dependent on proper inspections from the Howard County Health Department. I am convinced that the present situation resulted from short cuts that were taken by the company that was hired to correct the problem and by inadequate inspections. Work accomplished was done to expedite the sale of the

house in a way that benefitted the seller as well as Fyock Septic Services. All organizations involved should know that the effects of erosion such as the soil piping which is occurring now take considerable time for discovery. In addition, such poor workmanship potentially destroys connections to the junction box owing to differential settling and erosion around the junction box. Draftsmanship for the work permits is also of poor quality and leaves considerable room for error. Sketch plans do not seem very professional and are without scale, legend, and notes. Key terrain and other structures are not even noted on the plans.

I would hope that corporations performing work that is not accomplished within standards of safe practice, would be required to correct their mistakes. This is of special concern for septic tanks, dry wells, and drainage fields which cannot be inspected by the average home buyer. Please correspond with Mr. Mike Skipper to provide him with an opportunity to correct his mistakes. If possible, please also provide me with all information regarding your meetings with Mr. Mike Skipper and Mr. Ronnie Heaps and any reports that were written regarding your inspection of this "sink hole."

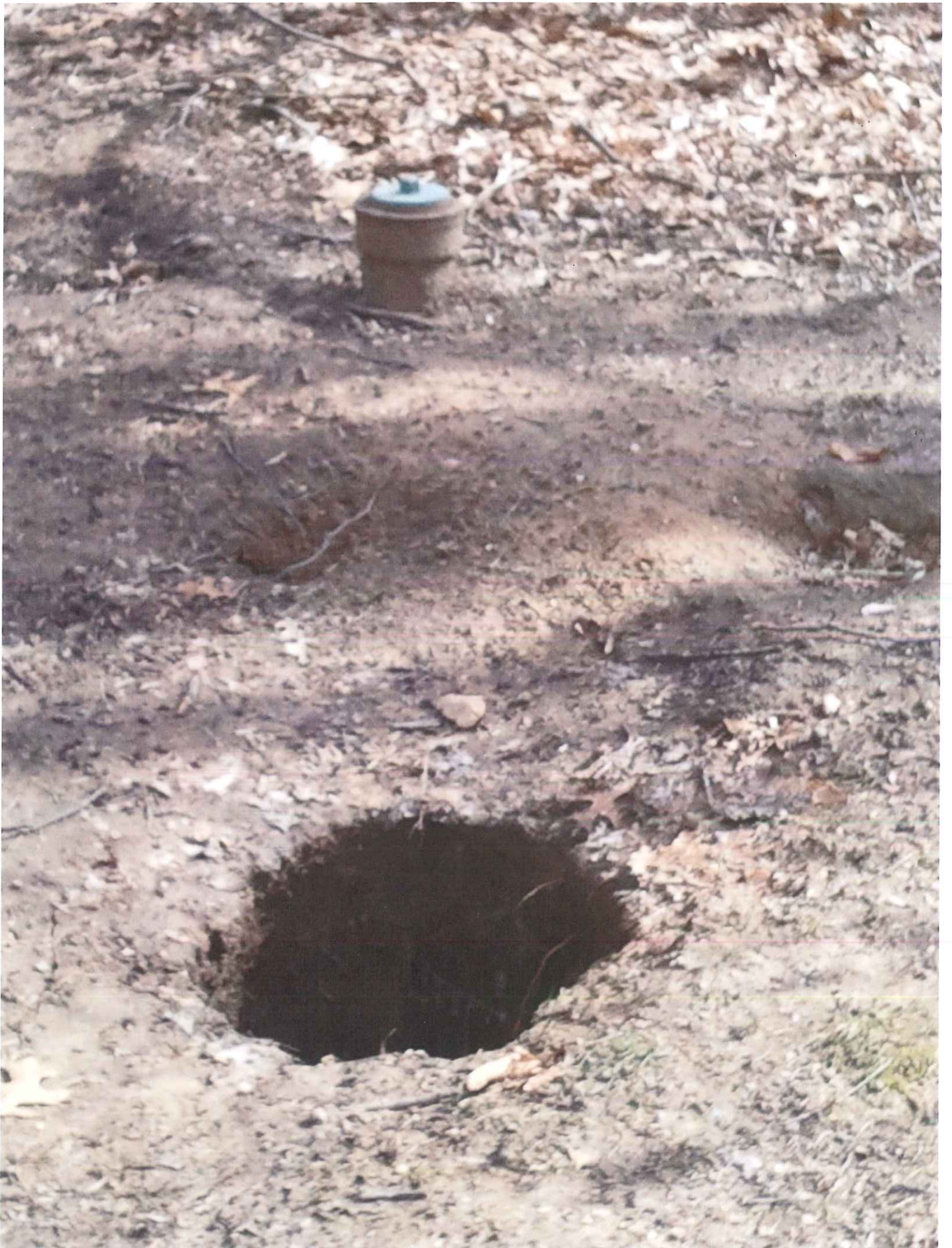
I would hope that the Howard County Well and Septic Program would help to prevent these types of events which seem to pose a real hazard to people and the environment.

Respectfully,
Reid

C. Reid Nichols
12337 Pans Spring Court
Ellicott City, MD 21042
Cell: 443-286-8398
Email: rnichols@mirc-us.com

Columbia office: 410-730-0844

Cc: Senior Agent & Regional Extension Director, Maryland





FILE INQUIRY NOTES

DATE	RESULTS OF REVIEW FOR FILE
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3/14/11	12337 Pan Springs Ct.
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Reid Nichols, owner

Met with Mr. Nichols, who showed Michael Johnson and myself the area near a 'dry well' where deep holes in the soil had formed or were in process of forming. The deepest hole was 4 feet and had exposed a segment of 6 inch pipe. The location coincided with the location of a distribution box installed for a Repair in 2004. Also observed were areas of subsidence over the 100-foot trench installed in 2004. Mr. Nichols had previously sought the advice of a septic contractor.

Solution in Dry Well at 7 feet from soil surface

My recommendation is that Mr. Nichols have his septic contractor dig out the areas where 'piping' is occurring and refill those areas, tamping the soil into place.

At the D. Box location the source of piping must be found; the Dist. Box may have to be reset, and the observation pipe is to be extended to the surface and capped.

RR Bunched

Resetting the Dist. Box will require a Minor Repair Permit.