

## Thomas, Susan

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**From:** Thomas Engleman <printmakingmgmt@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 6, 2022 8:52 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Susan  
**Cc:** Williams, Jeffrey; Wolf, Kevin  
**Subject:** Re: 5471 Old Columbia Rd - repair area

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thank you for all this information Susan. Genevieve and myself will reach out to Carl.

All the best,  
Thomas

On Tue, May 3, 2022 at 3:50 PM Thomas, Susan <[sathomas@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:sathomas@howardcountymd.gov)> wrote:

Dear Thomas,

After you asked for assistance in confirming the possible gas line on your property, I spoke with Miss Utility, BGE and Colonial Gas, and I inspected the area in person. The GIS map was off, there is no gas line going through your property.

This means there is a possible septic repair area on your property up near the road, which was identified during the site visit. If you would like, you can try this onsite option and begin testing the soil for suitability. Please ask your contractor (I believe Hatfield's) to apply for repair perc testing. If the soil is not suitable for sewage disposal, we can consider an innovative/alternative septic system or holding tank. Or, at that point you can apply to get connection to the public sewer.

Alternatively, you can go straight to working out a connection to the public sewer. You would have to work with Howard County Department of Public Works on entering the metro district (please speak with Carl Katenkamp, (410) 313-2330.) We cannot issue an order to connect because according to Department of Public Works you do not have a viable connection at this time. We could work with DPW to provide support for them extending a line to you as soon as possible if the soil is very poor, but we cannot do an order to connect.

As I discussed during the site visit, please keep in mind that your system is failing and is at risk for another overflow. Sewage at grade is a violation of the Code of Maryland Regulations as stated in (COMAR) 26.04.02.02(D): "A person may not dispose of sewage, body, or industrial wastes in any manner which may cause pollution of the ground surface, the waters of the State, or create a nuisance." Sewage at grade is a public health hazard due to the bacteria, viruses and parasites that can be transmitted. Please be sure to keep your system pumped to avoid citation.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Susan

Susan M. Thomas

Environmental Health Specialist

Well & Septic Program

Bureau of Environmental Health

8930 Stanford Blvd.

Columbia, MD 21045

410-313-6287

[sathomas@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:sathomas@howardcountymd.gov)

[www.hchealth.org](http://www.hchealth.org)



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*Thomas Engleman*

cell: 716.930.0922

## Thomas, Susan

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**From:** Williams, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 9:09 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Kevin; Thomas, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

Thanks Susan. We just need to be clear to the owner: He can choose to go straight to working out a public connection if he wants. He would have to work with DPW on entering the metro district. If he wants, he can choose to try this onsite option and we see what the soil looks like. If the soil is no good, we can look at I/A or holding tank or he goes back to trying to get that public connection.

The important part for us to remember is that we cannot issue him an order to connect because according to Daniel Davis he does not have a viable connection at this time. We could work with DPW to provide support for them extending a line to him as soon as possible if we find the soil stinks, but we cannot do an order to connect.  
Jeff

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**From:** Wolf, Kevin <KWolf@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 8:59 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Susan <sathomas@howardcountymd.gov>; Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

Susan,  
That's fine. I think we were just waiting on the owner to provide this info for us. I agree that this area may be an option for a replacement system. We have already instructed the owner and Hatfield's to apply for repair perc testing for an onsite. You may re-iterate this to the owner. Jeff (and myself) have already mentioned the options for connecting to public sewer.

Kevin

---

**From:** Thomas, Susan <sathomas@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 2, 2022 8:52 AM  
**To:** Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>; Wolf, Kevin <KWolf@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

Dear Jeff and Kevin,

I checked with Miss Utility, BGE and Colonial Gas and I also went to the property in person – our ArcGIS is off, there is not gas line going through this property.

In light of this I think the repair area would be the one previously identified up near the road (see the attached picture). I don't think another site visit is needed, they are ready for a repair perc inspection.

Let me know if you would like me to talk to the owner,

Thanks,  
Susan

**From:** Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 11:47 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Kevin <KWolf@howardcountymd.gov>; Thomas, Susan <sathomas@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

Thanks Kevin. I was out of the loop on that public sewer development. Roy Hooe had earlier emailed that they had an adjacent line they could tap. They will definitely need to get the ROW staked for a full thorough review if we may not have a viable sewer connection.

**From:** Wolf, Kevin <KWolf@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 11:42 AM  
**To:** Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>; Thomas, Susan <sathomas@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

The gas right of way on the interactive is not that accurate. The owner should seek bge or possibly Columbia Gas Co. This is what I got from Daniel Davis and his group:

"We've reviewed this property and found that both water and sewer are challenging to provide.

For sewer service, there is no sewer main adjacent to the property, and there are none that we can extend and provide gravity service. However, sewer service is not unfeasible. Instead, we would perform a routine extension from Twin Knolls Road to the northeast corner of this property, and the owner would require a grinder pump to pump into that sewer system. As with any routine extension we require 12 to 18 months lead time to fully implement prior to the owner being eligible to connect.

For water service, there is no water main adjacent to the property, and we would require a capital project to reach it, which requires significantly more time to implement. However it sounds like water service is less urgent than sewer service so that may be one silver lining.

As with your other inquiry this week, since this property is not within the Metropolitan District please direct the resident to Carl Katenkamp to start the process to connect to either sewer or water."

**From:** Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 10:22 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Susan <sathomas@howardcountymd.gov>; Wolf, Kevin <KWolf@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

Not sure. We may want to just do the site visit anyway and see if we can use GIS for the gas ROW. That might be enough to determine that he has no room. Ultimately, it seems his best option will be to enter the metro and make the connection. I did hear from Roy at Utilities that there is a tap he can access without any additional easements, so it will likely be a better option than anything onsite. And he'll be able to use the grant (or at least get on the waitlist).

**From:** Thomas, Susan <sathomas@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 9:29 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Kevin <KWolf@howardcountymd.gov>; Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

Dear Jeff and Kevin,

Thomas Engleman called to tell me Miss Utility marked his property but has no knowledge of the gas row easement in the backyard. Kevin said that Miss Utility might not be the best source to have this marked- do you know who he should call to have this marked?

Thanks,  
Susan

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**From:** Thomas Engleman <[printmakingmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:printmakingmgmt@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 14, 2022 10:47:02 AM  
**To:** Thomas, Susan <[sathomas@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:sathomas@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Natural Gas Row in backyard of 5471 Old Columbia Rd

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Thanks for the image Susan, very helpful.  
Best,  
Thomas

On Thu, Apr 14, 2022 at 10:42 AM Thomas, Susan <[sathomas@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:sathomas@howardcountymd.gov)> wrote:

Dear Thomas,

Just wanted to send you a picture of the natural gas row that goes through your property – it is the blue lines on this satellite photo. This is what we really need flagged out.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thanks,  
Susan

Susan M. Thomas

Environmental Health Specialist

Well & Septic Program

Bureau of Environmental Health

**8930 Stanford Blvd.**

**Columbia, MD 21045**

410-313-6287

[sathomas@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:sathomas@howardcountymd.gov)

[www.hchealth.org](http://www.hchealth.org)



[twitter.com/HoCoHealth](https://twitter.com/HoCoHealth)



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--

*Thomas Engleman*

cell: 716.930.0922

## Thomas, Susan

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**From:** Thomas, Susan  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022 1:39 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Kevin  
**Subject:** FW: 5471 Old Columbia - site inspection notes  
**Attachments:** lushGrowth.jpeg; dryWellCO.jpeg; septicTankCO.jpeg

**From:** Thomas, Susan  
**Sent:** Monday, April 4, 2022 4:18 PM  
**To:** Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** 5471 Old Columbia - site inspection notes

Dear Jeff,

Below is my summary of my inspection notes from 5471 Old Columbia. I have left a copy of my site inspection sketch on your desk. My photos of cleanouts are attached.

I just noticed on ArcGIS that there is a natural gas row going through the property.

### History of property:

- 5 bedrooms, 1 bath
- Previous owner reportedly replaced septic tank without a permit 9 years ago
- Current owner Thomas Engleman moved in 4 years ago
- Septic was inspected and pumped before they moved in
- Owner checked cleanouts twice a year, water level normal
- Pumped tank for first time in September 2021. Pump company told them to keep an eye on the system
- On March 17<sup>th</sup>, toilet would not flush. Owner checked septic tank cleanout and found it was overflowing
- A&V Septic Services pumped on March 17<sup>th</sup>
- A&V excavated on March 29<sup>th</sup>
  - Found terra cotta pipe coming from tank was broken, with water from the tank flowing out of the pipe
  - edge of tank looked like concrete
- A&V said they were not licensed to do septic work so they advised owner to call Hatfields
- Hatfields came to inspect and advised owner to call county

### Inspection observations:

#### Septic tank clean out:

- Water level is up into clean out, 1' from grade
- Evidence of past overflow
- Lush overgrowth around clean out

#### Dry well clean out(?):

- Higher than normal level, 3-4' from grade



- Evidence of past overflow
- Solids visible
- Appears to have terra cotta inlet baffle oriented in direction of house

Well:

- Untagged, in good condition
- Ground is bowled around casing, advised owner to fill this in
- Gas line going to meter in front of house
- Stream, creek and small pond in back of property
- Stormwater outlet next to sewer outlet on east side of Old Columbia

Feel free to let me know if you need any more information, or if you would like me to communicate with the homeowner.

Best,

Susan

**Thomas, Susan**

---

**From:** Williams, Jeffrey  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022 1:06 PM  
**To:** Ken Hatfield  
**Cc:** Wolf, Kevin; Thomas, Susan  
**Subject:** RE: 5471 Old Columbia Rd.

Ken, his property is not in the metro district and according to GIS, the available sewer lines are on a neighboring parcel. I told him he can talk to Utilities about how he may make a public connection and whether he needs an easement. Because his property is not in the metro district, he has the option of an onsite system. I explained the potential property challenges. He wanted to pursue that as one of his options while he talks to Utilities. I told him if he gets the gas utility ROW staked out, we could visit his site to measure things out and see if there is any space to even try testing before he gets a septic company to meet us onsite. If he is able and wants to connect, he will have to talk to Utilities about getting in the Metro district and we could pursue the BRF grant for the connection. I can't start that process if I don't even know yet that he can access the sewer line.

I also mentioned the bids for public connection, so he may be contacting you and others for that bid. I explained he would need to get the info from Utilities before anyone could get him a usable bid.

---

**From:** Ken Hatfield <khatfield@hatfieldsequipment.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 5, 2022 12:45 PM  
**To:** Williams, Jeffrey <jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov>  
**Subject:** FW: 5471 Old Columbia Rd.

[Note: This email originated from outside of the organization. Please only click on links or attachments if you know the sender.]

Jeff,

I don't understand this. You are telling him to do a perk test. My understanding of this is, if there is county sewer available you can't fix the septic? There are two taps on his property. Is this right or wrong? This man told me his finances were tight and could not afford an emergency pump last Friday. If someone from your office would just look at the site you will see it will take a special designed septic to make this work. I just don't want him to waste his money or send him in the wrong direction.

Ken Hatfield, President  
Hatfield's Equipment Inc.  
PO Box 519  
Annapolis Junction, MD 20701  
301-490-4289 x101  
410-984-0101

---

**From:** Thomas Engleman <[printmakingmgmt@gmail.com](mailto:printmakingmgmt@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 05, 2022 12:19 PM  
**To:** Williams, Jeffrey <[jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:jewilliams@howardcountymd.gov)>  
**Cc:** Wolf, Kevin <[kwolf@howardcountymd.gov](mailto:kwolf@howardcountymd.gov)>; Ken Hatfield <[khatfield@hatfieldsequipment.com](mailto:khatfield@hatfieldsequipment.com)>; [theremoteot@gmail.com](mailto:theremoteot@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** 5471 Old Columbia Rd.

Great talking to you today Jeff,

Please correct me if I'm miss understanding any of the process moving forward with our septic tank issue. Miss Utility will be out to my property between today and the 7th to mark out the entire property for , property boundary , gas easement etc. As soon as that work is completed, I will contact you and request an inspector to come back to the property to measure and assess the best locations to do a soil test.

Once that location(s) has been determined, I'll need to arrange a date and contractor to have the soil tests done with the health department and to determine the septic has failed. Susan mentioned to me that when that work is done the tank will need to be pumped again.. She told me there is a program where funds exist to help cover the cost of pumping, as long as that contractor is certified to do this type of work in Howard County? Can you please point me in the direction of that program or who I can contact? every bit of aid I can get I'll need with this project.

I'm going to contact the bureau of utilities as you recommended, to get the ball moving if we run into the scenario that there is no viable on site solution and we need to connect to a public sewer. Again let me know If I'm missing anything.  
Thank you,  
Thomas

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cell: 716.930.0922



## Wolf, Kevin

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I also mentioned the bids for public connection, so he may be contacting you and others for that bid. I explained he would need to get the info from Utilities before anyone could get him a usable bid.

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I'm going to contact the bureau of utilities as you recommended, to get the ball moving if we run into the scenario that there is no viable on site solution and we need to connect to a public sewer. Again let me know If I'm missing anything.  
Thank you,  
Thomas

*Thomas Engleman*  
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cell: 716.930.0922



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**Subject:** 5471 Old Columbia - site inspection notes  
**Attachments:** lushGrowth.jpeg; dryWellCO.jpeg; septicTankCO.jpeg

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#### Well:

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- Gas line going to meter in front of house
- Stream, creek and small pond in back of property
- Stormwater outlet next to sewer outlet on east side of Old Columbia

Feel free to let me know if you need any more information, or if you would like me to communicate with the homeowner.

Best,

Susan



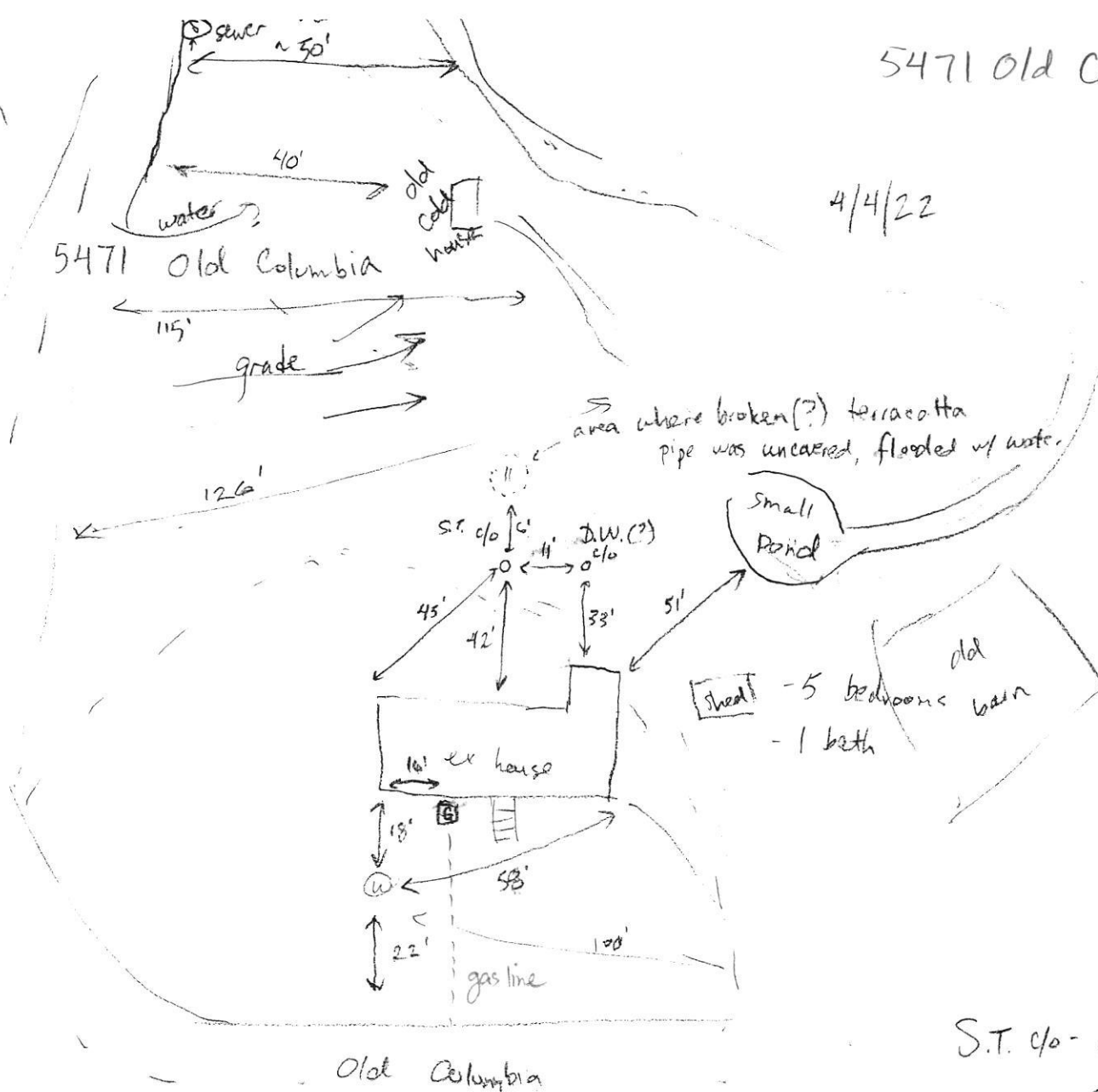
Sewer  
Connection  
Loan

Septic  
Savers

5471 Old Columbia

4/4/22

5471 Old Columbia



S.T. c/o - 1' from  
grade

Solids D.W. (?) - 34' from  
grade.

Thomas Engleman : printmakingmgt@gmail.com

Mar 17<sup>th</sup> - trouble flushing, found septic c/o to tank was overflowing. Appears to have  
terracotta  
inlet baffle  
in direction of flow  
from tank (broken w/ water)

↳ A.V. pumped it. Said it was drain pipe. Uncovered terracotta coming

↳ came out last Tuesday to excavate

New tank 9 years ago. (according to past owner) - looked like concrete  
edge of tank

Moved in 4 years ago. - had septic inspected

2021  
Past september - had it pumped the first time

checked c/os regularly  
every 2 years