Greetings Oak Run,

Subject: SWT GIS Wastewater Infrastructure Mapping Initiative – Oak Run Community

The Seniors Working Together (SWT), in cooperation with SERCAP, will soon begin a Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping initiative for the wastewater infrastructure in the Oak Run community.

About SERCAP, Southeast Rural Community Assistance Project, Inc. (SERCAP) is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization that provides training, technical, and financial assistance to both low-to-moderate income (LMI) individuals and rural communities to address water, wastewater, housing, and community development needs. Initially founded in Virginia, the organization has expanded to serve seven southeastern states, including, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. **https://sercap.org/**

In simple terms, this project involves identifying and recording the locations of existing sewer manholes and related wastewater system components throughout Oak Run. The information will then be organized into a digital map system designed to improve communication, infrastructure awareness, and the ability to quickly identify affected areas when residents report odors, disturbances, maintenance concerns, or other operational issues.

The project will utilize the existing Marion County Utilities (MCU) manhole and lift station numbering systems so that the information remains consistent with current utility records. This will help create a more organized and understandable reference system for future educational, informational, and community communication purposes.

There will be no cost to the Oak Run community or Marion County Utilities for this initiative. The project is fully funded through SERCAP and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Based on the overall size and complexity of Oak Run, which encompasses approximately 17.5 miles, the estimated project value is approximately $10,000. This estimate includes preparation, field work, data collection, digital map development, and reproduction of final hard-copy and digital materials. Approximately 100 labor hours are anticipated to complete the project.

Upon completion, copies of the finalized GIS mapping product, in both digital and printed formats, will be provided to Marion County Utilities and the DECCA Corporation and will be maintained in SWT records for future educational and informational use.

This initiative further reflects SWT's continued commitment to providing residents with accurate, organized, and understandable information relating to wastewater infrastructure and activities affecting the Oak Run community.

SWT also wishes to clearly emphasize that no MCU equipment, structures, facilities, or property will be touched, altered, operated, accessed, or interfered with during the course of this project. The initiative is strictly observational and informational. Individuals participating in the mapping activities possess wastewater operational experience, applicable certifications, and infrastructure knowledge relevant to this effort.

SWT values its continued cooperative and professional relationship with Marion County Utilities. Should there be any concerns, recommendations, operational considerations, or coordination requests regarding this initiative, SWT respectfully welcomes such communication so all matters may be properly addressed in a cooperative manner.

Ana Ortiz and Neal Rehse
Chairs – Seniors Working Together (SWT)

----------Description of initiative benefits----------

For those who do not know what GIS mapping is or its benefits to the SWT Wastewater initiatives, please see below.

To optimize wastewater (Sewer) infrastructure management, GIS mapping provides valuable insights through the following methods:

- Visualize the entire wastewater (Sewer) system layout, including pipes, connection, treatment plants, and outfalls
- Analyze spatial data to identify areas prone to flooding or system (Sewer) overloads
- Monitor asset conditions and maintenance needs through real-time data integration
- Plan for infrastructure (Sewer) upgrades and expansions based on population growth and usage patterns
- Facilitate emergency response by mapping critical infrastructure (Sewer) and potential hazards
- Enhance regulatory compliance by tracking discharge locations and monitoring water quality
- Creates a living document that enables the ability to add or remove assets (System componets) as they develop