From: Mary Downey
To: Jessica Miller
Cc: Mayor Staff; Grp. City Council and City Web Site; Marie Anderson
Subject: Re: Catch 22 Please help!
Date: Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:51:00 AM

Any news on this?
Mary

> On May 28, 2020, at 4:06 PM, Mary Downey <downeylaw@mac.com> wrote:
>
> Thank you, Jessica!
>
>> On May 28, 2020, at 4:01 PM, Jessica Miller <MillerJ@ci.missoula.mt.us> wrote:
>>
>> Dear Ms. Downey,
>>
>> Thank you for contacting us with your concerns. I will reach out to some folks at Missoula Water and Parks and Recreation to find a solution for you. I'll be in touch soon.
>>
>> Sincerely,
>>
>> Jessica Miller
>> Citizen Services Manager
>> Office of the Mayor
>> (406) 552-6001
>>
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Mary Downey <downeylaw@mac.com>
>> Sent: Thursday, May 28, 2020 3:58 PM
>> To: Mayor Staff <StaffM@ci.missoula.mt.us>; Grp. City Council and City Web Site <Council@ci.missoula.mt.us>
>> Cc: Marie Anderson <AndersonM@ci.missoula.mt.us>
>> Subject: Catch 22 Please help!
>>
>> To Whom It May Concern:
>>
>> As a resident of the city of Missoula and a Montana native, I am frustrated with our city. If ever there was a Catch 22, it is here in Missoula thanks to an office known as the “Urban Forester”.
>> In the beautiful University district, we have an eye-sore and possibly a health hazard that apparently cannot be corrected.
>>
>> Several years ago, the water company for some reason turned off the water at the curb box on 400 Evans Ave and the adjacent house on Hilda. When the water was turned back on, a small leak began at the curb box. (Both homes have adjacent curb boxes on the boulevard of Evans Ave.) Over the years, the leak gradually increased. Last year, when I was doing work in my basement, I contacted the Missoula Water Company and informed them of the leak. As a result of this, I received a “leak letter” basically telling me I had a leak and I had 14 days to correct this problem. I immediately contacted an excavator who was willing to assist me in getting the leak repaired. However, this excavator informed me that permission to repair (dig around the curb box area) was required from the City of Missoula. An Urban Forester arrived and promptly informed all of us (plumber, owner, excavator, and other city employees) that we could not repair the leak in the area where it was occurring. To repair would require working around the curb box that is located next to a 75 (or more) year old maple tree.
>>
>> We attempted to get permission in every way and were refused. The leak continued. Before the winter

freeze, I had sandbags placed around the leak to prevent the water from spilling onto the sidewalk and causing a dangerous condition.
>>
>> Now the birds drink, the deer drink, the mosquitoes breed, dogs sniff and sometimes drink, cats cluster. The water continues to leak.
>>
>> Neighbors have informed me that the water may in time contaminate their drinking water. They are concerned.
>>
>> My hands are tied. I want to repair the leak but I cannot. Does anyone have a suggestion here??
>>
>>
>> Frustrated,
>> Mary C. Downey
>> 400 Evans Ave.
>> Missoula, MT
>>
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