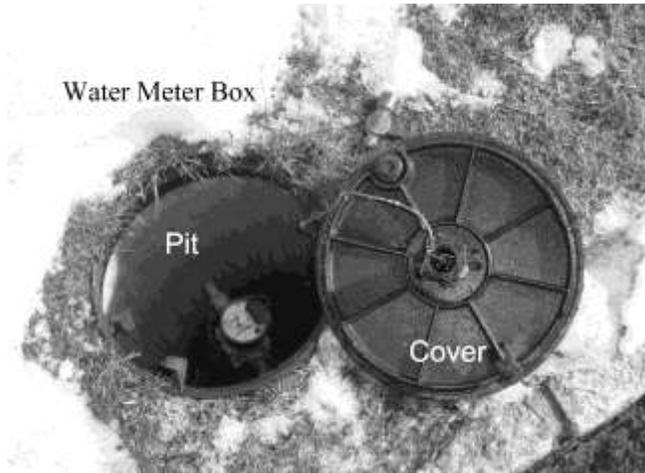


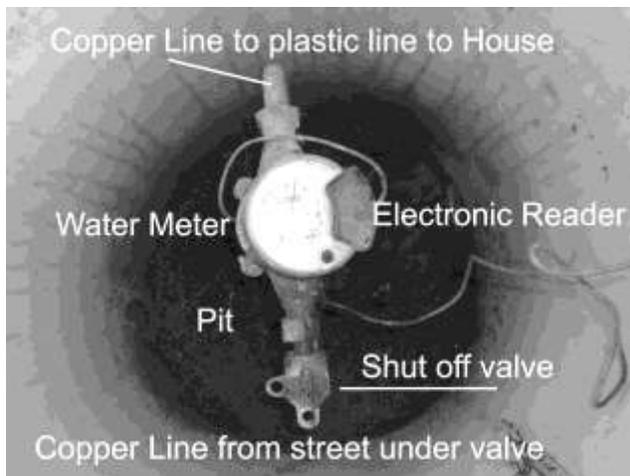
Main Water Line

There has been a lot of discussion lately about the water main to our homes. This was brought on no doubt by the reminders we keep getting from the American Water Company about buying insurance



before our line breaks underground and we have to dig up our lawns at great expense. The line from the street main, to and including the meter are the responsibility of the water company. The line after the meter is our responsibility. So, should you buy the insurance? Well, we all know what insurance is, it is paying up front for

something you hope never happens. So it is hard to say. The main supply line is a plastic one inch polyethylene pipe that is relatively flexible so it can move with the earth and is run for 10 to 12 feet



from the meter where a reducing compression coupling is connected and the line size changes to 3/4". It is installed underground from the meter and into the house just before the main inside shut-off. So there are three problem areas. The line from the meter is brass and



Typical compression reduction fitting

there is a transition piece underground after the meter that is used to connect it to the polyethylene plastic pipe, another at the reducing splice and inside the house there is another type of transition piece connecting the plastic pipe to the copper pipe inside. Will they break or leak? I have no

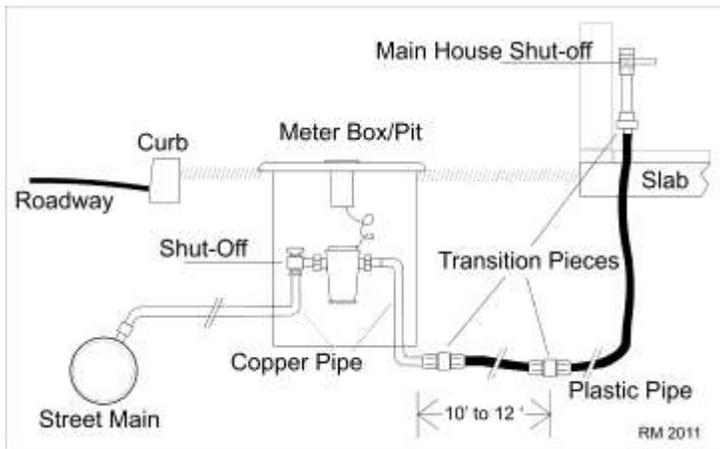
way of knowing. What I think is unfair though, is there is no easy way to shut off the water if it does leak or break. You would have to call the water company because there is no owner operated valve after the



SOLDER SOCKET FOR COPPER TO RIBBED INSERT FOR PE PIPE

meter. The shut off valve is before the meter inside the meter pit and you would need a special 5 point wrench to open the cover. Even if you did get it open (there is always a way) the valve you would need to turn off the water belongs to the water company and if you damaged that,

you would be in for an even bigger bill. Methinks this is unfair and they (the water company) should be responsible for the line up to the home owners shut off. That said, I don't think my opinion means a whole lot to American Water. The insurance they offer is \$5.00 per month added to your already high



bill. Five dollars a month is \$60.00 a year and in ten years (if it doesn't go up) would come to \$600.00. So, if you did have a breakage that would seem cheap if they covered all expenses. I wish there was some way we could set it up with our HOA. Sixty dollars a year times 1024

homes in the Fairways is \$61,440.00. If we did that for two years we would have, as a community, \$122,880.00 banked for that type of emergency on any of our homes and it would be accruing interest.

If a repair averages \$7500.00, that would cover repairs to sixteen homes, a number that seems unlikely as a water line should last for at least 30 years. This is just an idea rolling around in my old head.

Some of this information came from the Lakewood Township Plumbing Inspector, some from my old photos, some from my digging, some from Jim Saldutti & Joe DeFalco and some from computer research.

As always, this and other articles are available by going on the Fairways web site and click on Links, then Maintenance or go to <http://www.bellboatbob.com/fairwaysmaintenance.htm>