The above represents a typical view of the Pittsburgh (or Philadelphia) style cast iron vent assembly. This is generally located within 5’ feet of the building where the main sanitary sewer exits. In some cases, especially where the building was constructed prior to the construction of public sanitary sewers, the vent may be located further than 5’ from the building. It should be elevated or otherwise situated so that no rain or ground water can enter into the sanitary sewer. Plastic vent assemblies are not approved.

The fresh air vent is located directly above the main house trap. The unit should not be buried and should be accessible at all times. Since it is located directly over the trap, it is a primary access point for a plumber should your sewer ever become clogged. Often times, the clog is in the trap, and therefore, ready access to the vent enables a quick resolution to the problem. Also, if the vent is buried, it can not function properly and it could allow ground water to enter the sanitary sewer. South Fayette Municipal Authority is subject to Allegheny County Health Department Administrative Consent Orders which require that efforts be made to reduce surface/ground water entry into the sanitary sewer.

The above assembly can be purchased at most places that specialize in plumbing supplies. Locally, Sarasnick’s Hardware on Washington Avenue in Bridgeville and Worthington Sales located at 5042 Thoms Run Road both stock this item. The cost of the assembly as of December 2005 is under $30.00, including a gasket. It should be securely connected to the vertical riser pipe.