

WATER BREAK

With Tony Bellitto - Executive Director, NPWA



In an effort to keep up with the effects of inflation that raise expenses each year, North Penn Water Authority has increased its rates by a modest 3% for the average customer, effective January 1, 2014. The new usage rate is \$3.58 per 100 cubic feet, which is the same as \$4.79 per 1,000 gallons. As a result, the average customer, other than customers in the Sellersville Service Area, will pay annually about \$9 more this year as compared to last year. When the Authority purchased the Sellersville water system in 2011, rates for the Sellersville Service Area were established separately under the Agreement of Purchase.

Even with this modest increase, public water from NPWA is still "the best bargain in town." At this new rate, our average residential customer will pay about \$323 per year for water, which is the equivalent of approximately 88 cents per day for an entire household's daily water supply. For a household of 3 people, that's only 29 cents per person per day. That's a very low cost for such a vital commodity, especially one that is reliably available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, without interruption, for all domestic uses, like drinking, cooking, showering, bathing, flushing the toilet, lawn sprinkling, car washing, and fire protection. There is simply nothing you can buy that costs less, that has an equal or greater value than our product. It's a deal that can't be beat.

NPWA customers pay only one penny for about 2 gallons of our public water. What else can you buy for one thin penny these days at your local store? Absolutely nothing. Our product also has the added convenience of being delivered directly to your home.

The Authority has been able to keep rates low while increasing operating efficiency, thereby enhancing the value of the service we provide to our customers. Our focus on sound fiscal practices and an increased reliance on new technologies and labor-saving automation has enabled NPWA to continue delivering an economical supply of water that is always safe and reliable.

Business Hours (Mon-Fri - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.): 215-855-3617
After Hours Emergency Number: 215-855-9945

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www.northpennwater.org
"WATER CURRENTS"

NPWA accepts Discover, MasterCard and VISA

Please Return the BILL STUB with your payment to
ensure faster and more accurate processing. Thank you.

(Near the intersection
of Forty Foot Road
& Allentown Road)

Location:
300 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
(Towamencin Township)

Speakers and films are
available through NPWA
for Civic Organizations,
Schools, and Churches.

*A dedicated, professional workforce committed
to providing the community with a safe, reliable,
and economical water supply*



WATER CURRENTS

NORTH PENN WATER
AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER -
2014 Volume 15/No. 1

NPWA TOPICS:

WATER BREAK

- New Rates

WATER NEWS

- Storage Tanks Update
- Seasonal Reminders

TOYS FOR TOTS

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Due to the overwhelming generosity on the part of the Authority's employees, our customers and area companies, over 450 items were collected during the recent Toys for Tots Program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. In the fourteen years that NPWA has been a drop-off site, over 7,500 items have been collected. Your generous support demonstrates the true spirit of Christmas in our community and benefits many needy children. Thank you again for your ongoing support.



WATER NEWS *Storage Tanks Update*

It has been almost 20 years since the last time the Authority built additional tank storage. Over the years, water demands have increased substantially as the number of customers has grown. It is important that the Authority has a sufficient amount of water available in storage, to meet customers' growing needs. Water held in storage allows the Authority to maintain the required operational volumes and pressures, to meet the daily water demands of customers and the peak demands during the summer as well as reserve excess capacity when needed for firefighting and emergencies.



Franconia Tank, when completed

In April of 2013, North Penn Water Authority began construction of a new 3-million gallon water storage tank located just off Township Line Road, near Cowpath Road, in Franconia Township. When it is completed in December of 2014, the tank height will be 135 feet with a 118-foot diameter steel bowl for water storage resting on top of a 60-foot diameter, 84-foot tall concrete pedestal. The tank is necessary to ensure the Authority's ability to continue to provide the reliable service customers have come to expect.

Construction of a new 2.5-million gallon storage tank on the property of the Graterford Prison in Skippack Township will commence in the spring of 2014. Following completion, the Authority will be the sole water supplier to the new prison (called SCI-Phoenix) that is being built on the same property owned by the state, near the existing prison, which will be shut down. The new prison will no longer utilize its own on-site groundwater wells, but instead will purchase all its water from North Penn Water Authority. Although located on the prison site, this new tank will benefit not just the prison, but also NPWA's larger distribution system of

customers outside that property. Construction of the new tank is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2015.

In spring of 2015, the Authority will commence maintenance work on the existing elevated 2-million gallon water storage tank in the middle of Lansdale Borough, located near the Madison Avenue parking lot. The Lansdale tank is a critical, central component of the Authority's water distribution system, and it cannot be taken out of service for the extended time necessary for rehabilitation, sandblasting and painting of the tank until additional storage

capacity is first made available with the new tank in Franconia. So, with the completion of that tank in December of 2014, the Lansdale tank will be drained of water in the spring of 2015 and both the inside and outside will be rehabilitated and painted. Unlike paint that was used decades ago, today's advanced type of paint will better protect the structure from discoloration and surface rust, ensuring that the tank will be kept in good appearance and operating condition for many years to come. In the following year or so after the Lansdale tank painting is completed, similar work will commence on the Authority's elevated tank in Hatfield.

As is apparent from the tank construction and maintenance work being undertaken over the next few years, along with the routine annual maintenance and replacing of water main performed annually, the Authority is working diligently to maintain its infrastructure system. Doing this helps to ensure that the North Penn Water Authority continues to fulfill the critical mission to provide a high quality, continuous, and economical water supply to over 33,200 customers.

WATER NEWS *Seasonal Reminders*

"No Water": During the cold winter months, should you experience "no water" in your home, check all faucets before calling the Authority's office. The problem could be related to a frozen pipe in your home's internal plumbing. As the property owner, you are responsible for repairing the home's internal plumbing. To avoid freezing pipes and costly repair bills, we suggest the following winterizing tips: (1) Wrap and insulate pipes in unheated areas such as basements, closets, attics, or crawl spaces; (2) Caulk windows and replace or cover cracked or broken windows that are near water meters or pipes as well as where the pipe goes through walls; and (3) Locate and tag your master valve just in case pipes freeze and rupture.

Hydrants: Some hydrants throughout the NPWA distribution system are equipped with markers to assist the fire department in finding them if they become covered in snow or grown over with weeds or shrubs. Please don't tamper with the hydrant markers. Call our office if you notice a marker has been removed or vandalized. After a snow storm, please clear (or have someone clear for you) the snow and ice from around the fire hydrants located in front of your properties. This allows the fire department and the Authority's crews quick access to the hydrant in case of a fire, or for a necessary repair.

Fire Lines: Any customers who wish to test the operation of their fire sprinkler system and fire service line should call the Authority office ahead of time to notify us of their plans. This will allow the Authority to enact any necessary operational contingencies to ensure high quality, continuous water service to all customers.

Spring Hydrant Flushing Program: Our program of flushing and inspecting the hydrants should start, weather permitting, at the end of March and run through the end of May. As flushing time approaches, notices of hydrant flushing dates and locations will be posted in local newspapers and announced on WNPV Radio (1440 AM). You can also check the message portion of your bill or our website at www.northpennwater.org for this information.

