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 3% for the average customer, effective January 1, 2016. The new usage rate is $3.82 per 100 cubic feet, which is the same as $5.11 per 1,000 gallons. As a result, the average customer will pay annually about $10 more this year as compared to last year. Sellersville Service Area customers will not have any change to their rates which were established in 2011 under the terms of 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 $342 per year for water, which is the equivalent of approximately 94 cents per day for an entire household’s daily water supply. For a household of 3 people, that’s only about 31 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 as well as 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.

Due to the overwhelming generosity on the part of the Authority’s employees, our customers and area companies, over 455 items were collected during the recent Toys for Tots Program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. In the sixteen years that NPWA has been a drop-off site, over 8,100 items have been collected. Your generous support demonstrates the true spirit of Christmas in our community and benefits many children in need. Thank you again for your ongoing support.
In honor of 50 years of serving our customers, North Penn Water Authority (NPWA) invited the community to an Open House event to celebrate the momentous occasion last September.

The public was invited to tour the NPWA Operations Center, view highlights of the past 50 years and see demonstrations related to the NPWA water system, like valve turning, leak detection, how a fire hydrant works and how customer meters are read.

A number of local, state and federal elected officials recognized the Authority with certificates to mark the anniversary. Anthony J. Bellitto, Jr. PE, executive director of NPWA, honored Marvin A. Anders, a long-serving NPWA board member for 40 years of voluntary service, with a lobby dedication and ribbon cutting. Anders joined the NPWA Board of Directors in 1975. Before retiring, Anders was the chairman of Univest and worked at the bank for 47 years. Anders is also a staple in the North Penn and Souderton communities. He has served on the boards for Christopher Dock Mennonite High School and Lifepath in Sellersville, and has served on committees for Indian Creek Foundation, Penn View Christian School and Christopher Dock. In addition to the NPWA Board, Anders continues to serve on the board of Penn Foundation.

Every attendee received a free Refill from the Tap water bottle, a stainless steel, double-walled insulated water bottle that will keep water cold for hours. Refill from the Tap is a new campaign aimed at reducing plastic waste from going into landfills while saving customers money. Stop by our office during regular business hours to get yours while supplies last.

“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 testing 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, on our website at www.npwa.org or on www.Facebook.com/NorthPennWater for this information.