

# 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, 2013. The new usage rate is \$3.47 per 100 cubic feet, which is the same as \$4.64 per 1,000 gallons. As a result, the average customer, other than one in the Sellersville Service Area, will pay annually about \$8 more this year as compared to last year. At the time that the Authority purchased the Sellersville water system, rates for the Sellersville Service Area were set under the Agreement of Purchase. Those rates are set forth in the Water News article.

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 \$314 per year for water, which is the equivalent of approximately 86 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](http://www.northpennwater.org)  
"WATER CURRENTS"

NPWA accepts Discover, MasterCard and VISA

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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 -  
2013 Volume 14/No. 1

## NPWA TOPICS:

### WATER BREAK

- NPWA Rates

### WATER NEWS

- Sellersville Borough Service Area Update
- Seasonal Reminders

### TOYS FOR TOTS

## TOYS FOR TOTS



Due to the overwhelming generosity on the part of the Authority's employees, our customers and area companies, over 400 items were collected during the recent Toys for Tots Program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. In the thirteen years that NPWA has been a drop off site, over 7,000 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 **Sellersville Borough Service Area Update**

Since purchasing the Sellersville Borough water system in early 2011, North Penn Water Authority has worked diligently replacing older water mains, valves and fire hydrants where needed. As a result, the water system infrastructure in Sellersville is approaching the operational standards that exist throughout the Authority's system. The amount of work being performed over the last two years in the area has been intensive, with more planned for 2013. The Authority management and staff appreciate the positive feedback that has been received from many customers in the area. Their comments indicate that the temporary inconvenience from the ongoing construction activity has been well worth it for the improved level of water quality and reliability of service they are receiving. That is the ongoing mission of the Authority – to provide exceptional water quality and service at a reasonable rate to the over 33,000 customers served throughout the entire region. That rate was set at the time of purchase for the Sellersville service area at \$3.95 per 100 cubic feet, which is the same as \$5.28 per 1,000 gallons, for a period of ten years. As a result, the average residential customer in the Sellersville service area pays about \$353 per year for water, which is the equivalent of about 97 cents per day for an entire household's daily water supply.

A new interconnection and transmission main between the North Penn Water Authority's main distribution system and the Sellersville service area system was completed in 2011. This enables the Authority to provide Sellersville with treated surface water from the Forest Park Water Treatment Plant. Sellersville's old surface water treatment plant and all but one of its groundwater wells, which does not have any water quality issues, were shut down. A new water transmission main was installed along Diamond Street from East Ridge Avenue to the five points intersection at Main Street. At the interconnection point, a Supervisory Control

and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system was also installed that allows the Authority to monitor and control the operations of the water system from a remote location. Other projects included installation of water main along East Ridge Avenue, Branch Street, West Park Avenue, and East Temple Avenue as well as portions of Washington Avenue, Lawn Avenue, Church Street, Maple Avenue and Eyre Avenue. In an effort to improve water pressure, an upgrade to the Eyre Avenue Booster Station was completed. Water main flushing in part of the Sellersville area has occurred, and most of the remaining system will be flushed in the Spring of 2013. As with the rest of the Authority's system, customers will be contacted through various means to inform them when flushing will occur. All customers are requested to ensure the Authority has current phone contact information on file so they can be contacted at the time flushing occurs in their area.

A water meter replacement project is currently underway in Sellersville Borough. The purpose of the project is to replace the old meters and upgrade the current water meter reading system by utilizing the capabilities of the latest technology. The Authority is installing integrated units that incorporate an electronic register and measuring device. The new meters meet the standards that will be enacted under the new Safe Drinking Water Act Requirements in 2014. Two types of technology, Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) and Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), will be used in the borough. Meters will be read remotely by transmissions exchanged between a Meter Transceiver Unit (MXU) connected to each water meter and a unit located in the Authority's meter van (AMR) or a fixed location (AMI). This configuration eliminates the need for meters to be read manually making the process faster, more accurate and convenient. This is one of the many ways that the Authority uses technology wherever possible throughout its entire service area to provide customers with the best value possible.

## 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 and 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.

**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](http://www.northpennwater.org) for this information.

