

Water & Sewer News

As we close out another year we wanted to share some of our accomplishments during 2019.

First and foremost, there will be no water or sewer rate increase in 2020, and we continue to have the lowest rate in Berks County. Thanks to the hard work of our staff, we were able to keep our expenses within budget.

In the last quarter of the year, the Authority completed two projects to help the Township move forward and prepare for the future. The first was the completion of a new sewer pumping station located in South Temple. The original station was built in 1960 and was outdated and under-sized for the area it served.

The second project was the replacement of a pressurized sewer main in the Rivers Edge Development. Again, to prepare for future growth, the line was replaced and within budget.

The Authority has an outstanding record for water quality with both State & Federal agencies. We take this very seriously and work very hard to make sure our water is safe to drink for our customers. There are many factors which can impact our water, however, the Authority has developed a Source Water Protection Plan which locates any sources of contamination and works with these companies to make sure best practices are followed.

There are a few items that we want to remind our customers of for their protection during the winter months ahead.

Hose hazards!

Is your hose a hazard to your health?

When water flows backward through the water supply system, it is called backflow. When the water is accidentally mixed with hazardous chemicals or bacteria, it could cause serious health hazards. The danger comes when a hose, any hose, is connected to a harmful substance. If the pressure in a water main drops while the hose is submerged in polluted or contaminated water, then it could be sucked back into your pipes and your drinking water. Water pressure drops can happen when firefighters battle a nearby blaze or when crews work on a main break, along with many other everyday happening. Some harmful situations to avoid are chemical sprayers used to fertilize your grass or kill weeds. The cleaning solution used to wash your car, while leaving the end of the hose in the bucket. Even something as simple as filling your waterbed when a pressure drop occurs can cause harmful bacteria to be drawn back into your drinking water.

Here are a few helpful hints to keep your water supply safe, along with devices to prevent any backflow from happening in your home.

- 1) Never submerge hoses in buckets, pools, sinks, etc.
- 2) Do not use spray attachments on hoses.
- 3) Purchase and install backflow prevention devices for all outside faucets.
- 4) Check to see if you have any backflow prevention devices installed where the water supply enters your home.