

# PERKASIE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Fall and Winter  
2018

## Newsletter

Produced as a service to our Perkasio Borough, East Rockhill Township, West Rockhill Township and Hilltown Township customers



### A Message from the Chairman...

As we head into the Fall of the year, the time has arrived to review our budget for 2019 and our rates for the upcoming year. The Authority finds itself in the unique position that allows for a rate re-distribution, which will result in the majority of the customers seeing a slight decrease in their quarterly water and sewer bill. A detailed description of the rates and how this will impact customers is available on next page.

The Authority has had growth and development in the last year that has helped bear the costs of the infrastructure and help reduce base charge costs for our existing customers. When new construction occurs, the Authority not only adds additional customers to help offset fixed costs, the Authority also receives tapping fees from the developer. Those tapping fees have helped the Authority increase our capital fund to help to maintain and upgrade both the water and sewer system within the service areas. While this growth has occurred over the last couple of years, the Authority is still mandated by both State and Federal agencies to comply with ever-changing regulations.

Please keep in mind the Authority Board is made up of community volunteers. All Board decisions are made with much planning, debate and thought. It is incumbent upon the Board to make decisions that keep the Authority a sustainable entity, not only today, but for future generations.

The steps the Board has taken over the last few years have been designed to do just that. The partnering with both East and West Rockhill Townships, a sewer transportation Agreement with Sellersville Borough, the upgrading of our meters to radio reads, and the many other projects currently being developed will enable future Boards to continue to achieve that sustainability.

We believe out of all the services utilized by the public, water and sewer is an excellent bargain especially when compared to the cost of cell phones, electric, and cable TV. We hope you would also agree. Also, please remember that all of our meetings are open to the public and the Board Members are here on your behalf, so please feel free to attend. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

David Watt, Chairman



#### ONLINE BILL PAY!

**PRA has provided online bill pay at no cost to our customers for many years now, however, this year we have had some online billing software errors throughout the year. Should you have difficulties paying your bill online, please contact our office and we can process the payment over the phone with a debit/credit card or electronic check to avoid any late penalties. Please be sure your account has a phone number since the online system verifies your identity by the phone number provided on the account**

#### PRA BOARD MEMBERS

- David Watt  
Chairman
- J. Thomas Horn  
Vice Chairman
- Robert Wasson  
Secretary
- Stephen Algeo  
Treasurer
- David Bedillion  
Asst. Sec./Treas.

#### PLEASE PROVIDE EMAILS & PHONE NUMBERS!

**Should you not receive your bill in the first few days of your billing cycle, an email is sent out to you as a reminder & subsequent phone calls are made if payment is not received to avoid late penalties posted to your account**

**FYI - Bills are taken to the Post Office the day before they are to be mailed out**

## 2019 Water and Sewer Rates

Since the beginning of this century, the Authority has increased rates twelve (12) times. Although the budget for 2019 has a total operating budget roughly \$16k higher than 2018, the additional new customers, streamlining of processes and a reduction in workforce has allowed for a rate re-distribution which will cause most of the Authority customers to see a reduction in their quarterly water and sewer bill. This re-distribution will see the water base charges decrease 9.7% and 7.3% for sewer.

The base charge for water will go from \$69.50 to \$62.75 and the base charge for sewer will go from \$54.50 to \$50.50. Although the base charges are decreasing, the 2019 budget calls for increases to the consumption charges. In total, the average customer using 15k gallons per quarter will see their water and sewer bill stay relatively the same, going from \$289.00 to \$288.75. The customers who will see the biggest impact will be those customers using very minimal amounts of water, or very large volumes of water. As an example, the residents that use 5k gallons will see their bill decrease about 4% from \$179.00 to \$171.75 and the residents that use 25k gallons will see their bill increase about 2% from \$460.00 to \$468.75.

We realize this may be difficult for some of our customers to pay in one lump sum, as the Authority sends out bills quarterly. Therefore, customers are always welcomed and encouraged to make monthly payments. If you are interested in making monthly payments, please feel free to contact the office and the staff will be more than happy to give you an estimated monthly payment amount.

PRA must remain proactive about maintaining its 60.9 miles of water lines, 36.5 miles of sewer lines and water production facilities and continue to meet its obligations at the regional sewer plant.

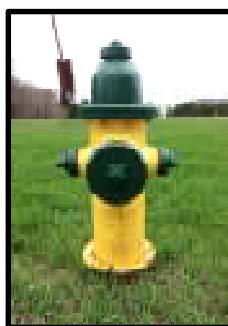
We work hard to provide our customers dependable, high quality water and wastewater services that protect public health and safety while keeping our rates reasonable. If we put off necessary maintenance in our system, it will cost more in the long run. For additional information on the new water and sewer rates, please contact the office or visit our website at [www.perkasieauthority.org](http://www.perkasieauthority.org).

### Perkasie Regional Authority Hydrant Maintenance

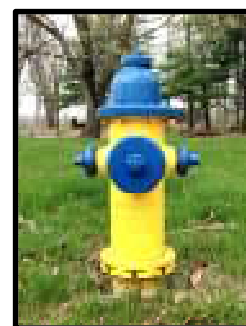
Fire hydrants serve an important role in keeping the distribution system clean and well maintained but the most important role of the fire hydrant is for use during emergencies. PRA has a little over 400 fire hydrants available for use 24/7 by fire departments and emergency personnel. Our hydrants are color coded to assist fire departments in firefighting efforts. Our employees annually paint, check and operate each hydrant to ensure proper operation in the event of an emergency. See below for what the colors indicate.



A fire hydrant painted yellow with **ORANGE** caps/bonnets – hydrant is capable of producing flows in excess of 500 gallons per minute.



A fire hydrant painted yellow with **GREEN** caps/bonnets – hydrant is capable of producing flows in excess of 1,000 gallons per minute.



A fire hydrant painted yellow with **BLUE** caps/bonnets – hydrant is capable of producing flows in excess of 1,500 gallons per minute.



## Projects/News: Current and On-Going

### **Ridge Run Contamination – Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)**

PRA, along with East and West Rockhill Townships, are actively working with the PA DEP to come up with solutions to provide potable water to the twelve (12) affected property owners that have been found to have PFOS/PFOA contamination above the 70 PPT (parts per trillion) HAL (Health Advisory Level). This contamination was discovered when two municipal wells (Ridge Run) were found to have elevated levels of these compounds in 2015. The DEP has since been testing private wells in the area and have found 12 of them to have levels above the HAL. The DEP, per Act 108 Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act, has \$2 million for their emergency response plan, which could include filtering systems for the 12 residents or providing public water to the area. The Authority, and its Engineer, have come up with a preliminary design and cost estimate of roughly \$1.9 million to provide public water to these 12 affected properties as well as about 50 additional residents in the immediate area, which was sent to DEP in August. The Authority is anticipating a decision from DEP sometime in October/November as to whether they will be providing filters to the affected property owners or extending the PRA water mains.

### **Sellersville Borough/Perkasie Regional Authority Agreement**

The Authority and Sellersville Borough have entered into several Sewer Capacity Agreements. These Agreements will allow the Authority to extend public sewer service into certain areas of West Rockhill Township and send the sewer to PWTA (Pennridge Wastewater Treatment Authority), the regional sewer plant, through the Sellersville collection System.

The first agreement is for 8 properties along Branch Road in West Rockhill Township. This area of the Township borders Perkasie Borough, Sellersville Borough and Hilltown Township and currently does not have any public sewer. This agreement would allow PRA to extend public sewers to this area and send the sewer through the Sellersville Borough collection system by tying into their manhole in Hughes Avenue.

The second agreement is for up to 180 EDU (equivalent dwelling units) in West Rockhill Township along Bethlehem Pike/Ridge Road. This agreement will allow the Authority to extend sewer facilities further into West Rockhill Township in accordance with the West Rockhill Township 537 Plan. The Authority anticipates extending sewer North on Bethlehem Pike towards Richland Township as well as West on Ridge Road towards Washington Avenue.





## Projects/News: Current and On-Going

As you have most likely noticed, the Borough of Perkasio is currently going through a residential and commercial growth period. There are a couple projects where constructions has begun and new water and sewer utilities are being installed.

- Pennridge Airport is expanding with a proposed commercial development. This expansion is expected to have at least two (2) phases. The first phase will include two (2) large 100,000 SF commercial/industrial buildings and that construction is expected to begin in the Fall of 2018. The second phase is initially expected to include a hotel, restaurant and office spaces.
- Constitution Square is a development approved for forty-nine (49) townhomes at the corner of Constitution Avenue and Walnut Street. This project is anticipated to begin in Spring 2019.
- Perkasio Woods is a 144 townhome development located on the old Perkasio Industries site at the corner of East Spruce Street and Constitution Avenue. This development has passed the halfway point of the build-out as of this point and it is anticipated to be completed in the Spring of 2019.
- Hidden Meadows is a 48 single family home development located off of Main Street in Perkasio Borough with an additional 11 single family homes in Hilltown Township. This development is being built in 3 Phases, with the first 2 phases being in Perkasio Borough and the final phase being the Hilltown Township Phase. The first 2 phases of construction have commenced with a few homes already sold. The 3<sup>rd</sup> phase is anticipated to begin construction in late 2018 or early 2019.

These new developments will not impact our ability to provide our existing customers water, sewer or fire protection, but will help to defray costs as a whole to our customer base. With roughly 250 new potential customers, the new revenues generated from development should minimize future rate increases and help to complete existing infrastructure upgrades.

With more potential development proposed for 2019, further water and sewer system upgrades could be completed allowing Perkasio Regional Authority to provide our customers with the best possible water and sewer service.

### **Perkasio Regional Authority Reservoir**

The Authority Board considers this project to be one of the highest on the priority list of our capital improvement projects. The Authority reservoir is located just south of Ridge Road on Ridge Avenue and provides roughly 1 million gallons of water storage. This reservoir has been providing water to the Borough of Perkasio since it was built in 1895 and had a liner and cover installed in 1974. The Authority Board is looking into replacement options for the liner and cover or potentially building a new holding tank.

### **Meter Replacement Program**

We will be continuing our Meter Replacement Program in 2019. We will continue to replace existing "physical read" touchpads meters with a new meter that transmits a read only when promoted from an Authority vehicle equipped with the appropriate equipment and software. These meters can also help identify any potential internal plumbing leaks or issues by recording a 90 day usage history.



## 2019 System Flushing Beginning in May

The Authority's Annual System Flushing Maintenance Project begins in May and is projected to be completed in approximately two (2) weeks and all work takes place **during nighttime hours between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.** The reason for this annual project is to preserve water quality, guarantee sufficient water pressure, maintain fire hydrant operability and remove sediment buildup in the lines.

We stress the importance of not using your water during this time as you would only draw dirt and sediment into your service line. After 6:00 a.m., if the water is still discolored, let it settle for a half hour, then run the cold water for a few minutes. Additionally, we urge you to check your wash water prior to doing any laundry. Water Softeners should be turned off to prevent back siphoning of the softening media.

We alert our customers in advance by mailing post card notices and posting alerts on our website: [www.perkasieauthority.org](http://www.perkasieauthority.org). The Authority will also be alerting our customers via a rapid response phone call. You will receive a pre-recorded telephone message informing you when our flushing crew will be in your neighborhood. Property owners are responsible for contacting their tenants.

For more information regarding this routine maintenance project or if you would like to know your scheduled flushing day, please visit our website.



### Winterization Checklist

- ❑ Turn off valves to outside faucets and make sure to fully drain the faucets. You may also want to consider an insulated cover for the outside faucet.
- ❑ Disconnect your garden hoses from all outside faucets and drain if you store them outside.
- ❑ If you have any exposed water or drain piping in un-insulated spaces, make sure to insulate them with foam insulation at a minimum. Ideally they should be wrapped with electrical heating tape first and then insulated.
- ❑ If you have a sprinkler system, it is recommended to turn off the water supply and blow compressed air through the sprinkler lines to purge them of water to prevent them from freezing and bursting.



Perkasie Regional Authority would like to remind everyone that it is the responsibility of the residents to make sure that all fire hydrants near their property are clear of ice/snow in the winter and leaves/shrubs the rest of the year.



# Customer Alerts

## Meetings Schedule

Perkasie Regional Authority meets at 150 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA at 7:00 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, except for June, July, August & Sept

Please visit our website at [www.perkasieauthority.org](http://www.perkasieauthority.org) for a list of all meeting dates

Meetings are open to the public for questions or concerns.

## Email

[info@perkasieauthority.org](mailto:info@perkasieauthority.org)



Perkasie Regional Authority  
150 Ridge Road  
Sellersville, PA 18960  
215-257-3654 Fax 215-257-5590  
[www.perkasieauthority.org](http://www.perkasieauthority.org)

**\*\* Follow us on Facebook & Twitter! \*\***

**In an Emergency, we  
can be contacted  
24 hours a day!**

## Notification & Fee Schedule

Month #1	1st of the month	- Bills are dated and mailed
	3rd of the month	- Notification email is sent stating that bills have been sent out
	21st of the month	- 10% Late Penalty is added
	31st of the month	- Late Call
Month #2	14th of the month	- 5% Late Penalty is added
	23rd of the month	- 2nd Late Call
Month #3	5th of the month	- Door is posted and 5% Door Posting Penalty is added
	13th of the month	- Pending Certification Call
	20th of the month	- Certified Letter Sent and \$10 Fee Added
	31st of the month	- Services are shut off and \$60 Fee Added

\*NOTE \* - If services are requested to be restored after normal business hours an additional \$30 fee will be added for an on-call employee to come out and do so.

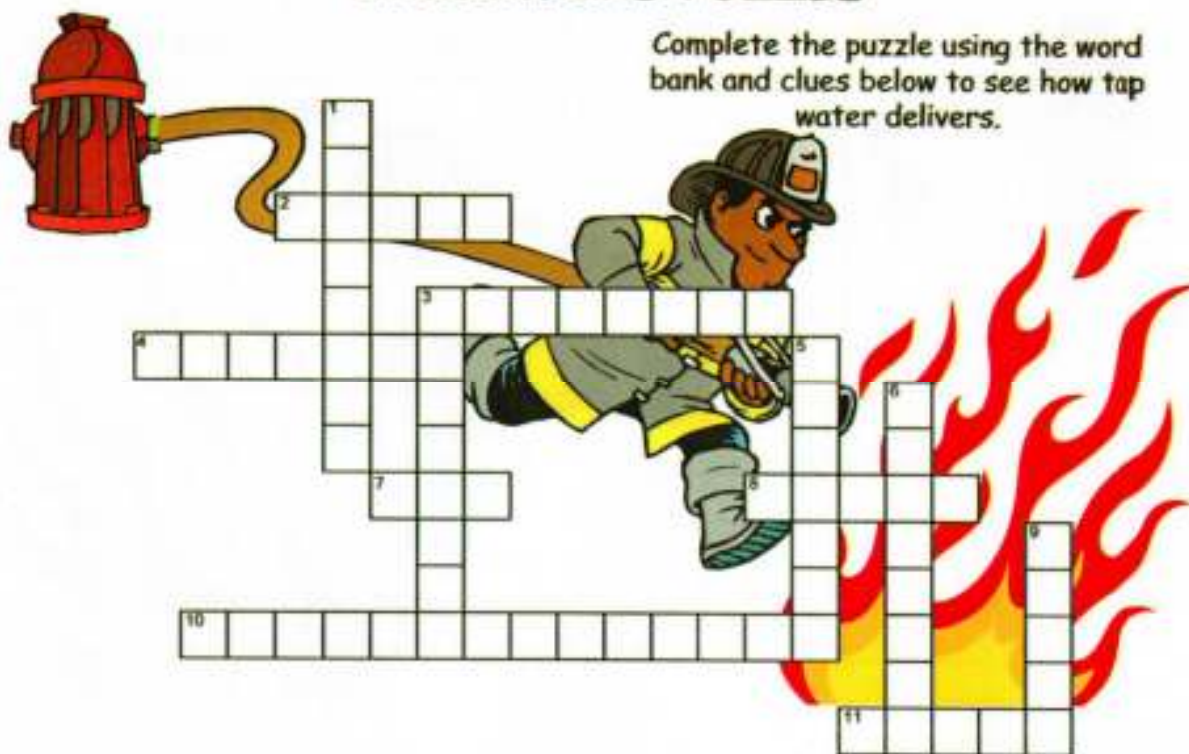
Month #1						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Month #2						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Month #3						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Complete the puzzle using the word bank and clues below to see how tap water delivers.



tap	leaks	water	infrastructure	utility	pressure
pumps	hydrated	fluoride	bills	potable	hydrants

- Across**
- Water flows to fire hydrants through a system of water mains, storage tanks, and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Drinking enough water every day keeps us healthy and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - The company that maintains and delivers our tap water is called a water \_\_\_\_\_.
  - What kind of water delivers fire protection and safe drinking water?
  - What is the main ingredient in common products like canned foods and soft drinks?
  - The network of water pipes below the ground is sometimes called the water \_\_\_\_\_.
  - \_\_\_\_\_ in the infrastructure can result in wasted water.

- Down**
- What do many water systems add to their water to prevent tooth decay?
  - Water that firefighters use to fight fires sometimes comes from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - Tap water in the United States and Canada is suitable for drinking and is sometimes called \_\_\_\_\_ water.
  - A break in a water main can cause a drop in water \_\_\_\_\_.
  - People pay water \_\_\_\_\_ to help maintain their water systems.



**Address**  
 Perkasio Regional Authority  
 150 Ridge Road  
 Sellersville, PA 18960

PRST STD  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
 Permit No. 92  
 Quakertown, PA

## PRA Welcomes Our Newest Board Member David Bedillion!



PRA would like to introduce you to our newest Board Member, David Bedillion. Perkasio Borough Council appointed Mr. Bedillion to the Board in January 2018 to fill a vacancy and his term will expire at the end of 2022.

On a personal note, Mr. Bedillion and his wife, Lauren, live in Perkasio with their daughters Lucy and Nora.

## Kid's Corner



Find the Snow words from the bottom in the Snow word search grid. The words can be forwards or backwards, vertical, horizontal, or diagonal. Circle each letter separately, but keep in mind that letters in each Snow word may be used in more than one word. When the Snow word search puzzle is complete, read the remaining letters left to right, top to bottom, to learn an interesting Snow fact



C A N A D A D R A Z Z I L B H  
 A S T H E W O R L D S C S E C  
 S O N D C D R I F T S E O L D  
 L N E W S U L T B U T C S N O  
 I W O I E S N O W F O R I S W  
 P L S W T L N I C A Y Y T H I  
 P O N A B L L C Q R A S I P I  
 E T A L W A I T E U H T A N A  
 R D N S N B N D U A E A L S N  
 Y E O W N W W K F A L L L O Y  
 F K A B O O R E Z B U S U T R  
 T C C W P N W O H U N D R E R  
 D A A I N S D M T H I R T Y U  
 S P I X T C E N A T I M E T L  
 L E V O H S E R S N E Z O R F

BLIZZARD  
 COLD  
 DRIFTS  
 FLURRY  
 FROZEN  
 ICE CRYSTALS  
 PACKED  
 POWDERY  
 SHOVEL  
 SLIPPERY  
 SNOW FORTS  
 SNOWBALLS  
 SNOWBANK  
 SNOWMAN  
 PLOW  
 STICKY  
 SUB-ZERO  
 UNIQUE  
 WHITE