



BTMA NEWS



Volume I, Issue II

Fall 2019

Office hours

Monday—Friday

7:30am—3:30pm

Mailing Address:

1007 Shed Rd Ste 102

Bedford, PA 15522

P 814-623-7879

F 814-310-0616

bedfordtma@gmail.com

www.goh20.net/btma

Meetings are held every 1st Wednesday of the month at 4:00pm in the meeting room of the township office building.

Inside this issue:

BTMA Water Sources	1
BTMA Online	1
Upcoming Project News	2
Rate & Fee Changes	2
Sewer System No No's	2
Water Conservation Tips	3
BTMA Gives Back BTMA Needs You!	4

BTMA Water Sources

The BTMA water system consists of five wells, four water storage tanks ranging from 338,000 to 500,000 gallons, and approximately 40 miles of water line. The system serves approximately 600 connections.

There are two well sites, with two wells each, on the northern side of the township; and, one well site located on the southern side of the township. There is one well on the southern site, but BTMA is currently developing a second well on this site.

Each well is drilled to the Ridgley Sands formation from where the water is produced. The water is pumped from the wells into the treatment building where it is treated with chlorine to reach the DEP minimum requirements.

From there it is pumped directly into the distribution system and to the customer. BTMA does NOT add fluoride to its water.

We have one storage tank located on the southern side of the township with a capacity of 500,000 gallons and three tanks on the northern side of the township; two with a 500,000 gallon capacity and one with a 338,000 gallon capacity. The tanks store finished (treated) water and work off gravity, so are therefore operable during power outages.

In the event of a prolonged electrical outage or water shortage, BTMA and Bedford Borough



Camp Sunshine Water Tank built in 2018; 500,000 gallon capacity. Located off Chalybeate Road.

maintain emergency only connections between our systems that can be used to meet supply shortfalls in either of our systems.

If you have any questions about your water quality please do not hesitate to call our office.

BTMA ONLINE

BTMA maintains a website at www.goh20.net/btma for 24/7 access to information regarding our water and wastewater system. Customers will find general information about the system, ongoing project information, downloadable forms, notices, water conservations tips and more.

Customers may set up an online account to review and/or pay their bill by going to our website and then selecting the "Online Payment" link. There is no charge to use an ACH debit from checking payment method. Customers may also use a credit card for payment, however, there is a \$3.00 or 2.65% (whichever is greater) transaction fee accessed to the balance paid. This fee is collected by the credit card processing company, not BTMA.

BTMA also offers automatic debit as a method of payment. Automatic payments will be processed on the bill due date. Call the BTMA office or go to our website for more information.

BTMA encourages customers to sign up for email billing. A notice will be sent to the customer's email address as soon as the billing cycle is completed. By signing up for email billing it helps the Authority reduce operating costs and provides the customer with more timely delivery of their bill with access to it from anywhere.

UPCOMING PROJECT NEWS

Area IV Project Update: This project has been completed and was released for connections to be made on July 22, 2019. The project was funded through a loan secured from PennVEST.

Area V & VI: BTMA has retained Stiffler McGraw and Assoc. to begin the design of the final Act 537 project that must be completed under the DEP mandate. This project will bring water and sewer service to the area of Route 220 south of the Topsiders and areas including, Sunrise Terrace, Sunnybrook Hafer and Cara Heights. The project is slated to break ground some time in 2021 and will take at least one year to complete. Please feel free to contact our office via email or phone with any questions or concerns you have regarding this project. BTMA will apply for a loan from PennVEST to fund this project.

Old Bedford Village Lift Station
Originally constructed in the late 1970's, the lift station was in need of substantial rehabilitation. The BTMA board decided to construct a new, larger capacity lift station instead of rehabilitating the old one. A larger station will be able to accommodate future growth in our township. Construction started in July 2019 and was completed in September 2019. This project was completely funded with monies from the BTMA general account.

Business 220 Waterline Replacement: Installed in the late 1970's, this area of waterline is in need of replacement. BTMA has retained Stiffler McGraw and Assoc. to design the project which will include some hurdles from a logistical standpoint. We will attempt to do the project with as little disruption as possible to local

businesses and traffic. The project will also include replacing the Hoover water tank that sits above the interchange. BTMA will apply for a PennVEST loan to fund the project. This project is part of the infrastructure upgrade that BTMA is currently conducting.

Cessna Area Sewer & Water Project: A small project to extend services to Cessna Heights will start in October. The project was partially funded with a Community Development Block Grant from Bedford County and with funds from the BTMA general account.

Project updates are available on our website at www.goh20.net/



RATE & FEE CHANGES

As part of our acceptance of project funds from PennVEST, we are required to raise our service rates. We have delayed doing so as long as possible, but unfortunately the time has come. Beginning with the January 2020 bill (October - December 2019 usage) the new rate for sewer will be \$20.35/1000 gallons, making the minimum bill \$40.70 per month; the new rate for water will be \$13.75/1000 gallons, making the minimum bill \$27.50 per month. These rates represent a 10% increase for both services. However, for bills paid by the due date there will be a discount on the total bill that will equal the current rate, so if paid on time there will be no change in the current rates. This will be reflected on the bill.

Bills are mailed in January, April, July & October for quarterly customers. Payment is due at the BTMA office

by 3:30pm on the due date or it is considered late. BTMA recommends payments be mailed 7-10 days before the due date to help ensure on time payment. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the customer of the responsibility to pay for service.

BTMA is also changing the following fees:

- ◆ **Late Penalty will increase from 5% to 10%.**
- ◆ **1.5% interest will be charged monthly on balances 30 days or more past due.**
- ◆ **Shut-off notice fee will increase from \$10.00 to \$25.00.**
- ◆ **Shut-off/turn-on due to non-payment will increase from \$50.00 to \$100.00.**
- ◆ **NSF fee for a returned check or declined ACH payment will be \$25.00 plus bank fee; late penalty will be added if applicable.**

SEWER SYSTEM NO NO'S

BTMA would like to remind customers of the items that should NEVER be put into the public sewer system.

- Grease/Oil (of any kind)
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Condoms
- Powdered Detergents (any kind)
- Pre-moistened Wipes
- Cotton Balls or Swabs
- Egg Shells
- Cat Litter
- Coffee Grounds
- Paper Towels (any kind)
- Medications
- Hair (human or animal)
- Dental Floss
- Any Non-biodegradable Products
- Chemicals (any kind)

Even if a product says it is "flushable" it does not mean that it *should* be flushed.

The items mentioned above get caught in the pumps used to move the wastewater through the system which increases the cost to maintain the system. These costs are ultimately passed onto the customers in the form of equipment repairs, extra labor costs, and higher treatment costs.

Please think twice before you flush something down the toilet or put something down the drain that may damage the public wastewater system.



Water Conservation Tips

We are often asked what the average usage for a household should be. This question is difficult to answer because every household differs in size and usage habits. The national average is 400 gallons per day for a family of four.

There are a number of ways to conserve water, and they all start with you.

Here are a few tips to help you become more conscious of your water usage and to use it more efficiently.

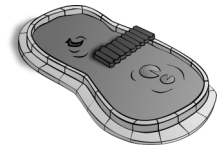
INDOOR

1. When washing dishes by hand, don't let the water run. Fill one basin with wash water and the other with rinse water.
2. Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Now, Energy Star dishwashers save even more water and energy.
3. Designate one glass for your drinking water each day, or refill a water bottle. This will cut down on the number of glasses you wash
4. When doing laundry, match the water to the size of the load.
5. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps clothes retain their color.
6. Run your washer and dishwasher only when they are full. You can save up to 1,000 gallons a month.
7. If your shower fills a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds, replace the showerhead with a WateSense® labeled model.
8. Shorten your shower by a minute or two and you will save up to 150 gallons per month.
9. Time your shower to keep it under 5 minutes. You'll save up to 1,000 gallons per month.
10. Toilet leaks can be silent! Be sure to test your toilet for leaks at least once a year.
11. Put food coloring in your toilet tank. If it seeps into the bowl without flushing, there's a leak. Fix it and start saving gallons.
12. Teach your children to turn off faucets tightly after each use.
13. Monitor your water bill for high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks.
14. Grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save up to 140 gallons a week.
15. See a leak and can't fix it? Tell a property manager, or call a handyman.



OUTDOOR

5. Next time you add or replace a flower or shrub, choose a low-water-use plant and save up to 550 gallons each year.
6. Adjust your lawn mower to the height of 1.5 to 2 inches. Taller grass shades roots and holds soil moisture better than short grass.
7. Remember to weed your lawn and garden regularly. Weeds compete with other plants for nutrients, light and water.
8. Use a rain barrel to harvest rainwater from gutters for watering gardens and landscapes.
9. For hanging baskets, planters, and pots, put ice cubes on the top of the soil to give your plants a cool drink without overflow.
10. Use a pool cover to help keep your pool clean, reduce chemical use and prevent water loss through evaporation.
11. When backwashing your pool, consider using the water on salt-tolerant plants in the landscape.
12. Don't overfill the pool. Lower water levels will reduce water loss due to splashing..
13. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean patios, sidewalks and driveways, and save water every time.
14. Wash your pets outdoors, in an area of your lawn that needs watered.
15. Use a commercial car wash that recycles water. Or wash your car on the lawn, and you'll water your grass at the same time.



**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP
MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY**

1007 SHED RD STE 102
BEDFORD PA 15522

814-623-7879 OFFICE
814-310-0616 FAX

bedfordtma@gmail.com
www.goh20.net/btma

WANTED....

Your suggestions! BTMA would like to publish a quarterly newsletter to be available on line, via email and for pick up in our office. In order to do so, we need suggestions from our readers/customers as to what information you'd like to see in those newsletters. You can provide those suggestions via email, calling the office or dropping us a note by mail or in our drop box. We look forward to your suggestions.

BTMA GIVES BACK

The township offices have been sponsoring community service projects to give back to the community.

- ◆ In August, we started collecting food items for the Bedford Area School District Backpack Food Program. So far we have delivered a box full to the elementary school. The collection will continue as long as donations are being received.
- ◆ On October 17, 2019 we will be sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1:00 pm - 6:00pm at the Bedford Twp Municipal Building. We encourage everyone to come and give blood or contact our office if you would like to volunteer at the event.
- ◆ The month of November we will be holding a Toy Drive to benefit Love, Inc. based out of Everett. New, unwrapped toys will be accepted at the Bedford Twp Municipal Building and will be delivered to Love Inc. the first week of December.

If you have any ideas for community service projects that the township may be interested in participating please call our office at 623-7879 to discuss.

BTMA NEEDS YOU!

BTMA has been working diligently the last two years to reduce I/I in our system.

Infiltration/Inflow, otherwise known as I/I, is water that migrates into sanitary sewer systems.

Groundwater entering sanitary sewers through defective pipe joints and broken pipes is called infiltration. Damaged and broken sewer cleanouts are a major cause of infiltration into municipal sewer systems.

Water entering sanitary sewers from inappropriate connections is called inflow. Typical sources of inflow include sump pumps, roof drains, cellar drains, and yard drains. Inflow tends to peak during precipitation events, and causes greater flow variation than infiltration.

Infiltration/Inflow (I/I) causes dilution in sanitary sewers. Dilution of sewage decreases the efficiency of treatment, and may cause sewage volumes to exceed design capacity.

High rates of I/I may make the sanitary sewer incapable of carrying sewage from the design service area. Sewage may back up into the lowest homes during wet weather, or street manholes may overflow.

Every system has I/I and it is very important to find and correct the points where I/I occurs. This is an ongoing process since new points of origin could potentially occur daily.

BTMA needs you to report any points of entry that you may observe. These observable points of entry could include sewer cleanouts that have been damaged or are missing caps.

Less observable, though no less harmful, points of entry are gutters, drains or sump pumps that are illegally connected to the public sewer system. If you have, or know of, any of these types of connections it is extremely important that you report these to the Authority so the situation can be corrected.

Illegal connections cause a burden on the entire system which could result in raw sewage backing up into homes and businesses during a significant rain event, additional treatment costs to consumers and pollution in streams and rivers.

Reporting such observations directly benefits you as a customer by reducing operating costs. We thank you in advance for your help!

BTMA also needs you keep manholes, cleanouts, grinder pumps, meter pits, water taps, etc. exposed and accessible. Do not cover with mulch, dirt, stone, structures, plants, etc. In the winter please shovel snow from around grinder pumps, meter pits, and water taps so they are accessible in the event of an emergency.

