



# BTMA NEWS



Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2017

**Office hours**

**Monday—Friday**  
**7:30am—3:30pm**

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

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## Welcome to BTMA

The mission of BTMA is to service its approximately 1300 customers by supplying quality drinking water and maintaining a public wastewater system that replaces private on lot systems as required by DEP regulations.

The water system consists of five water wells, three water tanks with capacities ranging from 330,000 to 500,000 gallons and over 40 miles of pipeline. The wastewater system consists of sixteen wastewater lift stations and wet wells and approximately 100 miles of pipeline. BTMA collects the wastewater and then conveys it to the Municipal Authority of Bedford Borough for treatment.

For those of you who

come to the office to pay your bill in person you've noticed new faces in the office. The last year has brought a few changes to the BTMA family as we have had two long time employees retire, Jake Hoover on June 1, 2017 & Jill Smith on April 21, 2016. We have brought two new employees on board to fill these positions.

We thought this would be a good time to introduce, or re-introduce as may be the case for some, the employees of BTMA. Our longest tenured employee is Verl Miller, who oversees the day to day operations out in the system. He is a certified water and wastewater operator with most of his time being spent on the water operation portion of the

system. Bradley "Buco" Foor is a certified water and wastewater operator who also focuses mainly on the water system. Brandon Hartrampf is also a certified water and wastewater operator who focuses mainly on the sewer system and is tasked with keeping the lift stations operational. Jarred Bulger is the newest member of the system personnel and recently became a certified wastewater operator and is currently working to obtain his water license.

In the office, Julie Guyer is our part-time Municipal Authority secretary and Amy Melius is our Authority manager.

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## Check Us Out Online

We are working to update our website and provide readily available information to our customers 24/7.

Customers can set up an online account by going to our website at [www.goh20.net/btma](http://www.goh20.net/btma) and clicking the "Online Payment" link. Customers can pay free of charge with their checking account or, for a 2.65% fee, with a credit or debit card.

This link can also be used simply to view account information such as current bill, past usage history, payment history, etc.

Customers also have the option of signing up for email billing. The Authority would like to encourage the use of this service as it costs approximately \$.70 per card (not including time) to send bill

notices. One of the goals of the Authority is to keep operational costs as low as possible. Customers can help the Authority achieve this by taking advantage of our online services.

Please feel free to suggest any information that you would like see posted to our site.

## Fire Hydrant Maintenance

One of the many benefits of having public water is having accessibility to fire hydrants for emergency situations.

Due to the number of hydrants in our system, the area that the system covers and other equipment and sites that need to be maintained, it can be difficult for BTMA to monitor the condition of every hydrant in the system.

BTMA would like to ask for the assistance of our customers to



help keep the fire hydrants in our system accessible for use.

Customers can do this in the summer by trimming weeds from around hydrants that are on or near one's property and in the winter by removing snow from around any nearby hydrants that would hinder the immediate use of the hydrant in an emergency situation.

Year round, customers need to remember not to block the accessibility of a hydrant with a parked vehicle, trailer or boat, or

construction materials or any other stored item. It is a violation to have anything within fifteen (15) feet of a fire hydrant.

By doing these simple things you are not only assisting BTMA, but you are helping yourself and your neighbors in the event that the hydrant would need to be accessed quickly.

Every second counts in an emergency situation and a clear path to a hydrant helps to make the job of first responders easier, allowing them to reach the fire or other situation sooner.

## Upcoming Project News

Bedford Township Municipal Authority is moving forward with the Area IV Sewer and Water project that will bring services to the areas of Sunshine Beach Colony, Camp Sunshine, Louella Drive and portions of Belden & Messiah Church Roads.

The project will begin on Belden Road near the back entrance of the

airport and end at Camp Sunshine. It is projected to begin in November 2017 and be completed in the second half of 2018.

This project is being done as part of the Pennsylvania Sewage Facilities Act (Act 537) which requires municipalities to build public wastewater systems in an effort to reduce pollution in streams and rivers of the

Commonwealth caused by failing private on lot sewer systems.

Project updates will be available on our website at [www.goh20.net/btma](http://www.goh20.net/btma).



## Welcome to BTMA cont.

BTMA is overseen by a board of five members which are appointed by the Bedford Township Supervisors. Each member is appointed for a five year term. Members must be residents of Bedford Township.



The current Board members are Eric Zembower, chairman; Greg Crist, vice-chairman; Kerry Barefoot, treasurer; Ian Frederick, secretary; and Ron Springer, assistant secretary/treasurer.

BTMA meetings are held

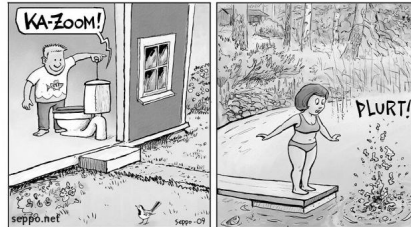
the first Wednesday of each month at 4:00pm in the meeting room of the Township building on Shed Road. Occasionally mid-month workshop style meetings are held; these meetings are advertised in the Bedford Gazette. Citizen participation is welcomed.

# Sewer System No No's

In an effort to keep wastewater equipment functioning properly and treatment costs under control, BTMA requests that the following items NEVER be put into the public sewer system: grease, feminine hygiene products, condoms, powdered detergent of any kind, pre-moistened wipes, cotton balls, egg shells, cat litter, coffee grounds, paper towels, medications, hair (human or from pets), dental floss and any non-biodegradable products.

Even if a product says its "flushable" it doesn't mean it *should* be flushed. You may be thinking, "As long as it goes down the drain it's okay." Unfortunately, that is not always the case. The items mentioned above get

caught in the pumps used to move wastewater through the system and finally to the Bedford Borough Sewer Treatment Plant. Having to remove these items from the pump stations



causes extra cost to the Authority, and ultimately the customer, in the form of equipment repairs, extra labor and also higher treatment costs.

Other items such as household chemicals, gasoline, oil and oil based products (food or industrial use), pesticides, antifreeze, paint, wood stain, etc. should NEVER be put into the wastewater system either. These "liquids" can combine with other items to form "fatbergs" that clog the sewer system. Sewer treatment plants are not designed to handle all chemicals so some chemicals will make it all the way through the system and will be released out into the river and eventually the ocean causing harm to those environments.

Please think twice before you flush the toilet or put something down the drain that shouldn't be released into the public wastewater system.

## SWIFTRREACH SYSTEM

SwiftReach is an emergency notification system that gives municipal authorities the ability to reach hundreds, or even thousands, of customers in a matter of minutes to alert them to a critical event such as a water break, boil alert or other such



water or sewer emergency.

BTMA is in the process of implementing this service, but in order to do so we need valid contact information for all of our customers.

While we have this information for some of our customers, we do not have it for everyone or the information we have is outdated.

We are requesting that customers make sure the information BTMA has on file is correct by providing us with valid contact information either by calling our office or by sending us an email or note that contains the information.

We are hoping to have the system up and running by the first of the year.

## 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 200 gallons per day for a family of four.

We have compiled a list of tips to help every household become more conscious of their water usage and to use it more efficiently.

Check for leaking faucets and toilets. A faucet dripping second can waste 2700 gallons of water in your toilet reaches the minutes, with-out toilet has a slow leak.



Only wash full loads of laundry and run a dishwasher only when full. A study

showed that it takes as much as 27 gallons of water to handwash 12 place settings of dishes, compared to 4 gallons used by a dishwasher to wash the same amount of dishes.

Do not run water continuously while brushing teeth or shaving. Turn off the shower when shampooing or lathering up. Keep a pitcher of water in the fridge instead of running the tap until water is cold. Visit our website for more water facts & saving tips.

**BEDFORD TOWNSHIP  
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**BTMA Billing & Payment Information**

For quarterly customers BTMA sends bills in January, April, July and October and payment is due the following month; dates vary based on billing date, weekends, holidays, etc. so check your bill for the due date. Payment is due in our office by 3:30pm on the due date to avoid a late fee. Customers may pay online through our website or their banking website, by bringing payment to the office during business hours, by leaving it in the drop box outside the office or by mailing payment. If mailing payment it should be mailed 7-10 days prior to the due date as there have been delays with payments being received on time. It is the customer's responsibility to get payment to BTMA by the due date and there are various options for doing so.

Failure to receive a bill does not relieve the customer of the responsibility to pay for service. Customers can opt to have email billing, can check the status of their account by creating an online account with us or by calling the office if they do not receive a bill.

**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 NEEDS YOU!**

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 sani-

tary 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 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 can 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 both BTMA and you as a customer. We thank you in advance for your help!

BTMA needs you to also 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.

