

PERKASIE REGIONAL AUTHORITY

Fall and Winter
2015-2016

Newsletter

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



Customer Alert

PLEASE PROVIDE EMAILS!

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 to avoid any late penalties

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



Perkasie Regional Authority
150 Ridge Road
Sellersville, PA 18960
215-257-3654 Fax 215-257-5590
www.perkasieauthority.org

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

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

Meetings Schedule

Perkasie Regional Authority meets at 150 Ridge Road, Sellersville, PA at 7:00 p.m. on the 1st Monday and 3rd Tuesday of each month

Please visit our website at www.perkasieauthority.org for a list of all meeting dates

Meetings are open to the public for questions or concerns.

Email

info@perkasieauthority.org



- Does your sink/toilet/tub drain slowly?
- Do you have plumbing problems during rain events?
- Do you feel like your facilities are not draining like they should be?

Not sure what to do...See how Perkasio Regional Authority can help before contacting a plumber...

Perkasie Regional Authority utilizes sewer camera trucks to inspect and/or flush blocked sewer lines from your outside cleanout to the street. No access to your home is necessary and it's **No Charge!**

So give us a call and we will come to your property to help identify any issues/problems before contacting a plumber

Phone: 215-257-3654

Note: Must be a PRA Sewer Customer for No Charge – All others a fee is charged

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.



PRA Welcomes Stephanie Ferrara



PRA would like to introduce you to our newest employee, Stephanie Ferrara. She joined the Authority in December 2014 as Accounts Receivable/Customer Service. We are delighted to welcome her to the PRA team.

As Accounts Receivable/Customer Service employee, she is responsible for handling all aspects of accounts receivable/billing, preparing deposits, monitoring customer payment arrangements, and addressing customer billing inquiries or complaints. Additionally responsible for setting up new accounts and running month end usage and billing reports.

On a personal note, Stephanie is a life long resident of Perkasio Borough. She is a Penridge High School graduate (Class of 2007). In addition, her parents are local business owners in the Perkasio Community.

2016 Water and Sewer Rates

Since the beginning of this century, the Authority has increased rates ten (10) times. In calendar year 2015, the average residential bill based on 60,000 gallons of water treated and approximately 90% of that water treated as sewage will rise to \$1,138.00. This equates the cost of producing, treating and distributing the water at \$8.18 per thousand gallons and \$10.78 per thousand gallons to collect, transport, treat and dispose of the sewage. This is an increase of \$9.00 per year \$0.05 per thousand gallons for water and \$0.10 per thousand gallons for sewer.

Out of the average cost of \$1,138.00 per year, \$541.81 goes to ensure that PRA continues to comply with its bond debt covenants and with its strategy to maintain and invest in its infrastructure to maintain the sustainability of the Authority. PRA must remain proactive about maintaining its 60.7 miles of water lines, 36.3 miles of sewer lines and water production facilities and continue to meet its obligations at the regional sewer plant.

You will notice the rate restructure that was changed at the beginning of 2013 has remained. Over the last several years, water use has been declining thereby reducing revenues. In order to make sure we can meet our legal requirements to our bond holders, minimum rates were adjusted to reflect the cost of our annual bond payments. The balance of our budget is paid for by operating revenues. Therefore, the inclining block rates were adjusted from six (6) to two (2) blocks and those rates have been established at \$10.70 per thousand combined cost for water and sewer for the first fifteen (15) thousand and then increasing to \$16.75 for all usage over fifteen (15) thousand.

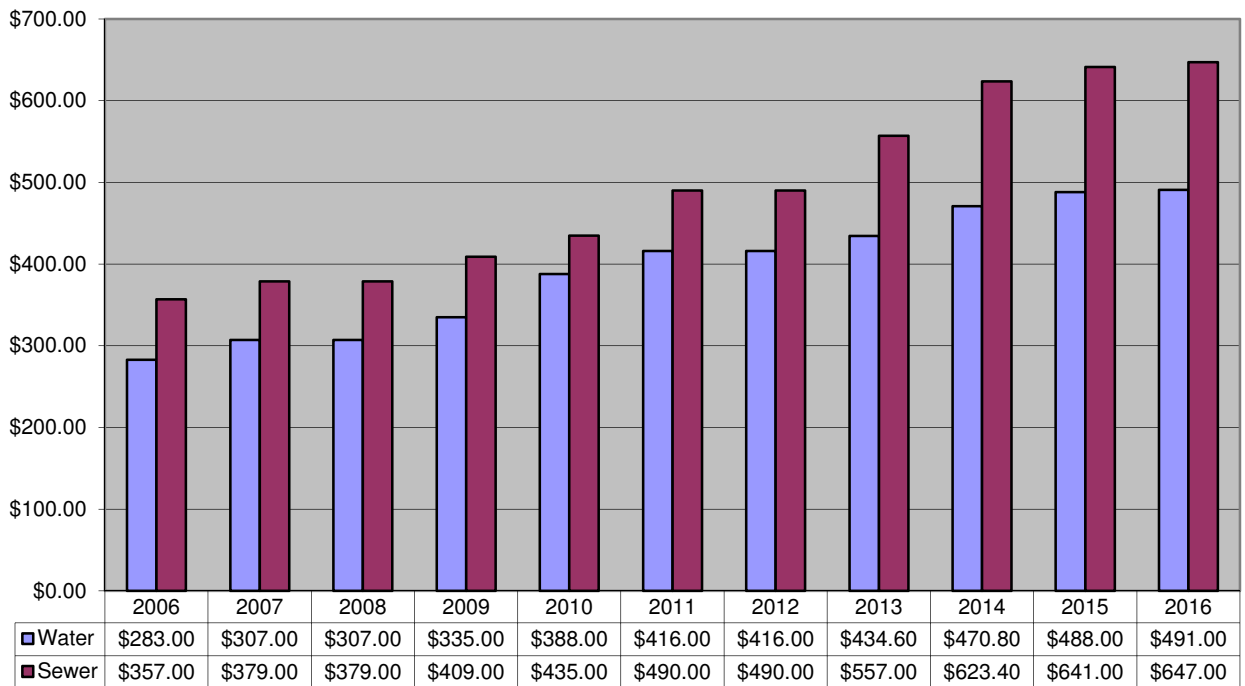
The average quarterly bill will be roughly \$285.00. We realize this may be difficult for some of our customers to pay in one lump sum, therefore if you would contact our office we would be happy to make monthly payment arrangements for you.

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.

2016 Water and Sewer Rates (Continued)

Average Yearly Bill Based on 60,000 Gallons of Usage per Year
(15,000 gallons per quarter)



2016 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. 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.



Construction Updates

Current and Completed Projects

As you have most likely noticed, the Borough of Perkasio is currently going through a residential and commercial growth period. There are four (4) projects where constructions has begun and new water and sewer utilities are being installed.

- Perkasio Woods is a development approved for 144 townhomes located on the old Perkasio Industries site at the corner of East Spruce Street and Constitution Avenue.
- Country Ridge is a 19 single family home cul-de-sac at the former Church of the Nazarene property above 9th Street on Park Avenue.
- The old American House property at the corner of North 7th Street and West Market Street is in the construction phase with two new buildings that are projected to house 16 apartments and a combined 7,900 square feet of commercial/retail space.
- Hidden Meadow is a 48 single family home development with the potential for an additional 11 homes. This is still in the development stages and will be located on an open parcel of land that has access from South Main Street at Coventry Way.

These new developments will not impact our ability to provide our existing customers water, sewer or fire protection, but should help to defray costs as a whole to our customer base. With roughly 200 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 2016, further water and sewer system upgrades can be completed allowing Perkasio Regional Authority to provide our customers with the best possible water and sewer service.

Well #7 Generator

In accordance with the storage tank overhaul that was completed in 2014, Perkasio Regional Authority added a permanent generator to our Well #7 site. Well #7 is one of the biggest and most efficient providers of clean drinking water to our system. During emergencies, such as Hurricane Sandy, Well #7 has the capability to provide our Storage Tank and Reservoir with water 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, even in the event of widespread power loss.

Meter Replacement Program

We will be continuing our Meter Replacement Program in 2016. We will continue to replace existing "physical read" touchpads meters with a new meter head 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.