

WATER BREAK

With Tony Bellitto - Executive Director, NPWA



The North Penn Water Authority has started construction on a new 3-million gallon capacity elevated storage tank. This new 135-foot high water storage tank will be a composite construction, consisting of a 118-foot diameter steel bowl built on top of a concrete cylindrical pillar. Construction of the tank is expected to be finished by the end of 2014. The site is located on Township Line Road near the intersection of Cowpath Road. The property is on the Franconia Township side, just across from the border with Hatfield Township.

It has been about 20 years since the last time the Authority built additional tank storage. Over the years, our water demands have increased substantially as our number of customers has grown. It is important that we have a sufficient amount of water available in storage, to meet the Authority's growing needs. Water held in storage allows the Authority to maintain the required operational volumes and pressures, to meet the daily water demands of our customers as well as peak demands during the summer, and to reserve excess capacity when needed for firefighting and emergencies.

After the new tank in Franconia is operational, the Authority will then commence some much-needed maintenance work on our existing elevated 2-million gallon storage tank in the middle of Lansdale Borough, located near the Madison parking lot. The Lansdale tank is a critical, central component of the Authority's water distribution system, and it could not be taken out of service until additional storage capacity was first made available with the new tank. In the spring of 2015, the Lansdale tank will be drained of water and both the inside and outside will be painted to restore and protect the structure.

Maintaining and upgrading our infrastructure is an important part of what the North Penn Water Authority does on a regular basis. Doing so ensures our customers can depend on receiving the high quality, reliable water supply they expect.

Business Hours (Mon-Fri - 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.): 215-855-3617
After Hours Emergency Number: 215-855-9945

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"WATER CURRENTS"

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ensure faster and more accurate processing. Thank you.

(Near the intersection
of Forty Foot Road
& Allentown Road)

Location:
300 Forty Foot Road
Lansdale, PA 19446
(Towamencin Township)

Speakers and films are
available through NPWA
for Civic Organizations,
Schools, and Churches.

*A dedicated, professional workforce committed
to providing the community with a safe, reliable,
and economical water supply*



WATER CURRENTS

NORTH PENN WATER
AUTHORITY NEWSLETTER -
2013 Volume 14/No. 2

NPWA TOPICS:

WATER BREAK

- Storage Tanks

WATER NEWS

- Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response
- Public Notification
- American Cancer Society NPWA Relay for Life

TOYS FOR TOTS

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While it may be "rushing the season" to mention Christmas so soon, now that the newsletter is semi-annual, we are taking this opportunity to let customers know that for the fourteenth year, the North Penn Water Authority will be a drop-off site for The Toys for Tots Program sponsored by the U.S. Marine Corps. Please consider purchasing an item for a child up to 18 years of age, such as toys, books, art supplies, disposable cameras, or gift certificates. The drop-off bin will be available in the Authority's front lobby area Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., from the last week of October until December 16. Knowing this is very early to be thinking about Christmas, please mark your calendar with a reminder of the drop-off dates if you'd like to donate. Thank you very much for your continued support in providing needy children with a better Christmas.



WATER NEWS **Emergency Preparedness and Emergency Response**

It is vitally important that the Authority's water supply be reliably delivered to all customers at all times and under all circumstances without interruption. The attainment of that goal can be challenging at times, due to unexpected problems such as: extreme weather events, power failures, mechanical breakdowns, or water main breaks.

During Hurricane Sandy in October of 2012 and in its aftermath, the North Penn Water Authority lost electrical power at approximately ninety percent of its facilities the first night of the hurricane. Although some of the Authority's facilities were without electrical power for a period of three to six days, none of the Authority's nearly 33,000 customers lost water for any period of time during this event. The reason that the Authority could get through this event without any interruption of water service to customers were the backup power systems that are in place.

Under normal circumstances, if power is lost from one of the two 33KV PECO electrical feeds that provide service to Forest Park Water Treatment Plant, which operates 24 hours/day, 365 days per year, the other supply will pick up. Following the hurricane, however, power was lost from both circuits, and plant staff shifted to on-site diesel power generators. Together, the generators were essential to keeping the plant continually processing about 15 million gallons of water per day for a period of 70 hours. Many of the Authority's wells and booster stations also lost power, but the critical facilities were kept running with both stationary and mobile generators. If all of these water facilities were not kept continually functioning, there would have been a public health emergency declared implementing mandatory water use restrictions for customers because of the lack of water.

The Authority remotely monitors all critical aspects of the water system

operations on a continuous basis with a state-of-the-art SCADA system that automatically sends out an alarm if anything out of the ordinary is detected. In addition, there is always on-call staff available to respond to any emergency situation that may occur after normal business hours.

An important component of a good emergency preparedness program is to build redundancies into water system design and operations, which NPWA has implemented for many years. That means as much as possible, neighborhoods are served with water from a looped distribution system network, so water can flow in from more than one direction if necessary. These dual feed lines are especially important at critical care facilities, which must be assured of a continuous water supply without interruption in all circumstances. The Authority's water storage facilities include ten large elevated and ground-level storage tanks, which collectively hold a supply of over 12 million gallons of water.

Because of the critical nature of Information Technology, back-up files of all data are taken off-site each evening. In addition, NPWA has the ability to fully restore the company's critical systems at an off-site location which has been reserved, under contract, for use when and if it is needed.

In summary, no matter what kind of emergency might occur, the North Penn Water Authority is prepared to respond. It is ultimately the Authority's dedicated employees that make sure all customers continue to receive the reliable supply of highest quality water that they have come to expect, no matter what the challenges might be. The Authority's employees are its most valuable resource, and serving North Penn Water Authority's customers is their most important focus.

WATER NEWS **Public Notification-Update Phone Number/Email Address Contact Information**

As detailed in previous issues of the Water Currents and letters sent to customers, NPWA has implemented a high-speed mass communication system. During the spring hydrant flushing program calls, it came to our attention that several customers' phone numbers have been changed and no current phone number is on file. If your landline or cell phone number has changed and you have not notified the Authority to update your account, please contact [Marianne Morgan](mailto:Marianne.Morgan@northpennwater.org), Community Relations Coordinator at (215) 855-3617, ext. 130 or info@northpennwater.org.

In addition, the recent email notification concerning the 2012 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report returned many unreachable addresses. If you submitted an email address but did not receive an email from the Authority concerning the Water Quality Report, or wish to receive future emails on this and other important topics, please contact us as noted above to update your email address for your account.

The ability to provide notification in the event of a problem or to send Water Quality Reports and other important information related to your water supply is only as good as the latest contact information you have given to us. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us to serve you better.

WATER NEWS **American Cancer Society 15th Annual North Penn Area Relay for Life**



For the tenth year, NPWA's "Thirsting for a Cure" team participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event held on June 22-23, 2013 at the North Penn High School Track in Lansdale. As of this writing, the overall event total raised by all 50 teams (564 participants) has exceeded \$169,000 for the fight against Cancer. The NPWA "Thirsting for a Cure" team included: Tony Bellitto, Helene Dunn, Gary Raser, Maryann Regan, and Bill Smith. Working together, the NPWA team members raised over \$1,400 for this important cause. Funds were raised through contributions by team members, family, and friends who sponsored them on the walk, and through donations by employees who supported various fundraising activities throughout the year. Special thanks to Sue Borowski, Helene Dunn, Bill Smith, Karen Sullivan, and Dan Yaw for all their efforts in preparing for this event. For information on becoming involved in the Relay for Life, please check out the ACS relay website.