

water rings

April - June 2009

Volume 4, No. 2

Annual System Flushing

"System flushing" is the phrase used to describe the routine procedure of operating valves and fire hydrants in the water distribution system in order to maintain the highest level of water quality.

This year, system flushing will be done between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning on March 23 and continuing through May 29.

This year's schedule is:

Montgomery and New Britain Townships - March 23-April 24 (including Candlelight Farms, Parsons Lane, Meetinghouse Road, Goodman Tract, Gwynedd Knoll and Hunt Club sections of Lower Gwynedd Township)

Upper Dublin Township - March 23-April 9 (including the Delaware Valley Industrial Park and Llewellyn, Annasmead, Baker and Llanfair

Road sections of Lower Gwynedd Township)

Whitpain Township - April 6-April 20

Lower and Upper Gwynedd Townships & North Wales Borough - April 21-May 29 (including Normandy Farms, Normandy Farms Estates, Windermere and Amberley Sections of Whitpain Township)

You may notice reduced pressure or cloudy water when flushing is in your area. This is expected and is not harmful. Simply let the **COLD** water run from your taps until it becomes clear.

If problems persist, please call Customer Service at 215-699-4836 between 8:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Friday.

Public Notification

The Safe Drinking Water Act requires water utilities to notify their customers in the event of emergencies related to their water service. Currently we are required to communicate through radio and/or television or posted signs in the affected area. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection is reviewing these requirements and we expect that new regulations will require more direct and personal communication with our customers.

To meet these expected new regulations, later this year we will begin implementing a high speed, mass communication system. Using this

new system we will be able to communicate directly with you using the phone number you provide.

The new system will enable us to send you recorded messages for both emergency and non-emergency matters, such as hydrant flushing, main breaks or service-related road work in your neighborhood.

You will receive further sign-up information in the mail. Please be aware that if you choose not to provide us with a phone number, we will not be able to contact you with potentially important information about your water service.

Tex Mex 5K Race for Open Space

Mark your calendars! June 24 marks the 20th anniversary of the Tex Mex 5K, held to benefit the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.

Last year was the most successful to date, with 1200 runners and walkers raising over \$25,000 for open space protection.

North Wales Water Authority is proud to partner with and support the Association's work protecting and enhancing the open space in the Wissahickon Creek watershed. Visit their website for more information about the race:

www.nwwa.org/tex_mex_5k.htm



NWWA

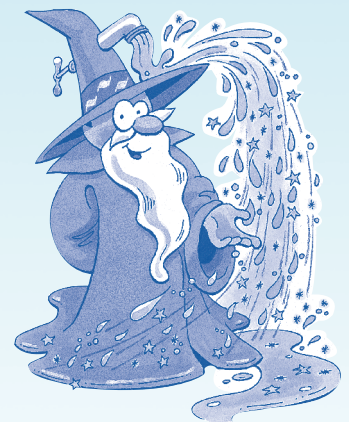
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Save Your Family/ Save Your Wallet

This spring, when you put fresh batteries in your smoke detectors, you should also check on your water consumption. Minor leaks in your plumbing system can lead to major increases in your water and sewer bills. Check your toilets, faucets, laundry tub, and all outside hose bibs for leaks and drips .

Save your family by changing the batteries in your smoke detectors and reviewing your family's fire safety plans. Save your wallet by checking for leaks and conserving water.

Sump Pumps & Downspouts

Did you know that your sump pump or downspout should not be connected to the sanitary sewer? You might think that adding "clean" water to the sanitary system is a help, but this inflow actually creates problems. Inflow creates an extra water burden on the sanitary sewer system, and then when the system is overloaded (as happens during heavy rainfall), it can back up into our streets, buildings and your basement. Inflow also creates higher sewer bills because we are all paying for the unnecessary treatment of clear water. Storm sewer connections are often acceptable (confirm with your local municipality).

Please check to make sure that your sump pump and downspouts are properly connected. If you need to make adjustments, remember to never direct water onto a street, alley, right of way, easement or neighboring property.

Avoid High Usage Surprises

If you have a lawn irrigation system or swimming pool, you can avoid high usage surprises by monitoring your water use in the warmer months. One way to do this is to take a meter reading before and after watering your lawn or filling your pool. Having this figure will enable you to determine how much of your water use was in the home versus outdoors.

Taking these meter readings is also a good way to check for leaks in your system. If no one is using water indoors or outside and the meter is running, chances are you have a leak. Even small leaks can translate to big water bills.



Q: *Can lawn care impact local drinking water quality?*

A: The safety and fate of herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers applied to residential lawns remains somewhat of a mystery. It seems to depend on whom one talks to: environmentalists, scientists, lawn care professionals or water providers as to what answer you will get.

The fact that enormous quantities of these products are being applied to lawns is beyond dispute. The key question is how much of these products are reaching local streams or leaching into groundwater supplies. Stream researchers are frequently detecting a wide variety of these components in both dry weather and storm runoff conditions from residential watershed areas.

The US-EPA estimates that nearly 70 million pounds of active pesticide ingredients alone are applied to lawns each year. Collectively, residential lawns cover over 30 million acres of our country's landscape. Homeowner surveys suggest that herbicides, pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers are regularly applied on roughly half of these acres.

The diversity of these treatments applied to lawns is staggering. Each individual compound differs greatly in its mobility through soil, persistence and potential aquatic impact. It is very difficult to determine the exact environmental risk each individual component of the treatment may pose.

While residents do show an increasing awareness about the links between lawn care and water quality, for many their primary objective still seems to be a sharp looking lawn. Monitoring drinking water supplies for these products remains a continuous process.

**Water Rings is published Quarterly to Serve our Customers in:
North Wales Borough and Lower Gwynedd, Montgomery,
New Britain, Upper Dublin, Upper Gwynedd, and Whitpain Townships.**