

water rings

July - September 2014

Volume 9, No. 3

It's Time for a Sprinkler Spruce Up!

It's been a long, hard winter for your yard. While your plants go dormant to cope with the colder weather, your sprinkler system can feel the effects of winter, too. Cracks in the pipes can lead to costly leaks, and broken sprinkler heads can waste water and money. You could be losing up to 25,000 gallons of water and more than \$90 over a six-month irrigation season - the cost of about 300 daffodil bulbs!

Now is the perfect time to spruce up your irrigation system before you ramp up your watering efforts this summer. To get started, follow these four simple steps - inspect, connect, direct, and select:

Inspect: Check your system for clogged, broken, or missing sprinkler heads. If you're not the do-it-yourself type, go with a pro - look for an irrigation professional certified through a WaterSense labeled irrigation program.

Connect: Examine points where the sprinkler heads connect to pipes/hoses. If water is

pooling in your landscape or you have large wet areas, you could have a leak in your system. A leak as small as the tip of a ballpoint pen (1/32nd of an inch) can waste about 6,300 gallons of water per month.

Direct: Are you watering the driveway, house, or sidewalk instead of your yard? Redirect sprinklers to apply water only to your lawn or prized plants.

Select: An improperly scheduled irrigation controller can waste a lot of water and money. Update your system's schedule with the seasons, or select a WaterSense labeled controller to take the guesswork out of scheduling.

Show your landscape some love this summer with a sprinkler spruce-up. Learn more about maintaining a water-smart yard by visiting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense website at: www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor.

Have You Signed Up for Water Service Line Protection?

Did you know that the pipe that carries water from your curb to your house is owned by you? This means if that pipe, we call it a "lateral", were to break or spring a leak, it would be your responsibility to have it repaired.

The North Wales Water Authority offers customers the Water Lateral Maintenance Program as a safeguard against such an occurrence. Under the Lateral Maintenance Program, if anything happens to your water service line (or "lateral"), we will take care of the repair at no additional cost to you.

The Lateral Maintenance Program offers you

protection against the possibility of costly repair bills and covers any damages in your lateral from the curb stop to the outside wall of your home or building.

The charge for the program is minimal:

- Residential - \$10 per year
- Commercial 3/4" and 1" connections - \$18 per year
- Commercial 1 1/2" and 2" connections - \$30 per year

You may sign up for the Lateral Maintenance Program by calling our office at 215-699-4836 or online at www.nwwater.com/go/lateral.



NWWA

North Wales Water Authority

PO Box 1339
200 West Walnut Street
North Wales, PA 19454-0339
215-699-4836
www.nwwater.com
wizard@nwwater.com



This Issue

Sprinkler Spruce Up 1
Service Line Protection

Forest Park Water 2
Q & A - UMCR3



Water Rings is printed on 100% recycled paper using soy-based ink.

Forest Park Water - Advanced Water Treatment

Forest Park Water (FPW) is our state-of-the-art water treatment facility located in Chalfont, PA. FPW is unique in that it is jointly owned and operated by the North Wales and North Penn Water Authorities. With area groundwater supplies disappearing as a result of tremendous residential and business growth in the 1970's and 1980's, FPW was the solution for ensuring a plentiful, reliable water supply well into the future. Water treated at FPW comes from the Delaware River.

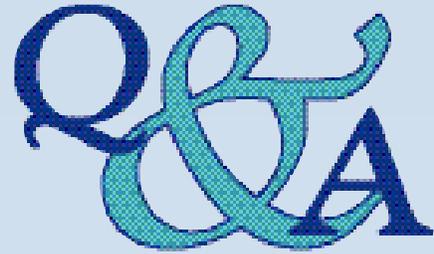
FPW opened in 1994 with the ability to produce 20 million gallons of water per day. From its inception FPW has employed leading-edge water treatment technology. FPW was among the first facilities in the United States to treat the water with ozone. Even today ozone is used by only a small percentage of American public water suppliers. Ozone is a potent disinfection tool and its effectiveness is maximized at FPW because it is used in both pre- and post-treatment.

FPW is also unique in its use of Granular Activated Carbon contactors to remove taste and odor compounds from the water.

In 2007 FPW was expanded and capacity was increased to 40 million gallons of water per day. At that time, FPW became one of the first and largest plants in the United States to convert from traditional media filters (anthracite and sand) to technologically advanced micromembrane filtration. Membranes provide a more effective barrier against the passage of potentially harmful pathogens, such as cryptosporidium and giardia, because of their ability to remove microscopic particles.

Sophisticated technology enables a single plant operator to control the facility through the aid of a microprocessor-based network. Each operator maintains a Pennsylvania Waterworks Operator License of the highest classification. Equally important are the specialized skills provided by the mechanical and electrical/controls staff.

To learn even more about FPW, request a brochure at wizard@nwwater.com or by calling us at 215-699-4836.



Q: *In your 2013 Water Quality Report there is a section called "Unregulated Contaminants." Can you explain what these are?*

A: As part of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is required to create a list every five years of up to 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored in the nation's public drinking water supplies. The EPA uses the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring (UCM) program to collect data for constituents suspected to be present in drinking water, but do not have health-based standards set under the SDWA.

To obtain the 30 contaminants that are currently being monitored, the EPA initially considered 7,500 potential chemical and microbial contaminants. This broad universe of potential drinking water contaminants was then refined by the National Academies of Science, National Research Council and the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, along with the EPA. Input from the public and water industry organizations was also considered.

During 2014 we will be conducting UCMR-3, or the third round of unregulated contaminants monitoring. The current list of contaminants includes pesticides, disinfection byproducts, chemicals used in commerce, waterborne pathogens, pharmaceuticals and biological toxins.

An overview of the UCMR program can be viewed at <http://water.epa/drink>.

**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.**