

# *Municipal Authority of Borough of Union City*

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# NEWSLETTER



## Spring-Summer 2012

### Union City's New Water Storage Tank



**Phase I Water System Improvement Project:** The Authority's Pennsylvania state H2O water grant project is winding down and should be completed near the end of June or mid July. The PA state H2O grant provided \$943,532 with the UCMA contributing \$636,468 of capital reserve money for a total project cost of \$1.58 million to replace an old 77 year old raw water line, a new chemical feed injection building, installation of a new drinking water line and new water storage tank. The picture above shows the tank nearly completed. This project was undertaken to improve Union City's drinking water quality along with upgrading its aging infrastructure. Our new "North" tank can be seen at the Union City Reservoir. We are expecting the reservoir to be re-opened by mid-July for public access fishing at the reservoir and to view the new 675,000 gallon storage tank.



**PA-DEP Sewage Treatment Plant:** During the three consecutive months of Feb, Mar, and April of 2008, Union City was hydraulically overloaded at its sewage treatment plant facility. The overload caused the treatment plant to be in violation of its permitted hydraulic flow rate design. The Authority continues to upgrade sewer lines that were previously identified as areas to be addressed in its Inflow and Infiltration study. Also, a smoke and dye testing project was completed on the sewage collection lines in 2010 and has identified other areas needing attention. This past spring, the \$100,000 Phase II First Avenue sewer line project was completed and we were awarded \$75,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding to complete the Phase II Putnam Street sewer replacement project. In January of 2012, the State PA-DEP has concluded that the Corrective Action Plan has been completed satisfactorily and that the sewage plant serving the Union City Borough and Union Township is no longer hydraulically overloaded. This is important to the community as Union City is no longer in violation of its sewage plant permit and we are no longer under restriction to prevent further additions of new customers or added capacity into our sewage system.



**EPA/DEP Disinfection Byproduct Violations:** After six years of recurring disinfection byproduct violations the Authority is happy to report that Union City has been in compliance with the EPA/DEP regulation since the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011. Recent upgrades and adjustments made at the water plant has improved the drinking water quality to meet the existing drinking water regulations and the next phase of upgrading our water plant will not only help keep Union City in compliance with the existing regulations but will also help meet more strict future regulations. Everything being done for regulation compliance will also help with the aesthetic (taste, odor and color) issues of our water and provide you with some of the best water in the county.

**Water Rates and Water Infrastructure Replacement:** On February 27, 2012 the American Water Works Association released an important new report that shows the aggregate costs of repairing and expanding U.S. drinking water infrastructure will top \$1 trillion over the next 25 years, requiring higher customer water rates in many communities. As you know by now, on May 1<sup>st</sup>, Union City raised its water rates by 25%. We have projected at least three increases that will take effect to help pay for the new water system upgrades. The next 25% rate increase will be on May 1, 2013 with the third increase on May 1, 2014. It is unknown at this time as to what the water rate increase will be in the third year until we move forward with our next phases of construction. **Phase II Water System Improvement Projects are:**

- 1) Year 2012: Design of the water plant upgrade with construction to begin during 2013.
- 2) Year 2013: Upgrading the distribution system water meters to new radio read meters.
- 3) Year 2013: design of the water plant's sludge lagoon upgrade with construction to begin during 2014.

The water rate increases will be used to pay the loan the Authority will need to acquire to help pay for the water system improvements. Our preliminary loan estimate to pay for the needed system upgrades is projected to be \$5.5-6.0 million dollars.



**New Radio Read Water Meters:** Union City's water meters are in need of being upgraded and replaced as many are outdated and not registering properly. The Authority board members voted last year to move forward with upgrading its water meters with the latest radio read meters. These new meters have the capability to data log 4,000 data logging points or approximately 166 days. They also are able to determine low flow, high flow or no flow and have tamper alerts, leak alerts, theft and back-flow alerts. We are currently replacing our non-working meters with new meters and look to do a system wide upgrade in 2013. This will assure that all customers are paying their fair share of water consumption which we also hope will help to keep future water rate increases to a minimum.


**Monthly Water Meter Charge:** There seems to be some misunderstanding or contention on the new monthly water meter charge that started appearing on your recent water/sewer bills and we would like to clarify why the charge was implemented and what it means to you as a customer. Earlier this year the Authority board voted to implement a monthly meter charge to pay for the new water meter program for purchasing and maintenance of the new meters. The Authority will pay for the total cost of purchase and installation of the new meter but the customer will pay for all costs associated with damage done to the water meter due to negligence or the water meter freezing. The new monthly meter charge is included and not an added increase over and above the new 25% water rate increase. Previously all meters were owned by the homeowner, business owner or landlords which were required to purchase new meters when they needed upgraded or replaced. The current cost of a new residential meter is \$185.00 which no longer will be billed directly to the owner. Upgrading to new meters is part of the Phase II water system improvements and all customers are required to pay for these upgrades. The monthly meter charge that shows on your water bill is for accounting purposes only. This allows us to track how much revenue is being generated per month/year that goes towards paying for and maintaining the new water meter program.



## **Union City, Pennsylvania Community Web Site**



**Union City  
Municipal  
Authority**

Click on the UCMA link  which is found on the main page of the Union City Community website to visit our web page. Or type the following UMCA website address into your web browser: <http://www.unioncitypa.com/ucma.htm> We want to thank UC Computer Works for doing a great job at keeping our website up-to-date with the latest information that relates to the Union City Municipal Authority and other water related issues.

**Union City Municipal Authority Employees:** **Dan Brumagin-** Operations Manager, **Laurie Galinsky-** Administrative Assistant, **Karen Lesik** and **Donna Parkinson-** Accounts Receivable/Billing, **Daryl Nunemaker-** Wastewater Treatment/Distribution/Collection Supervisor, **Bob Dishinger-** Water Treatment/Maintenance Supervisor, **Art Wetmore-** Assistant Water/Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator, **Todd Salusky-** Distribution/Collection Operator.

**The Union City Municipal Authority wants to thank you for being patient while we have worked through various areas of concern and we look forward to better times ahead. The Authority board members and our staff look forward to any input on ways we can improve our business and serving you, our customer.**