

## A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Do you remember receiving and have you read the Annual Water Report mailed to you last June? During the year, we constantly test your water for all known regulatory contaminants to determine the presence of any radioactive, biological, inorganic, volatile organic or synthetic contaminants in our drinking water! Our drinking water continues to meet or exceed all Federal and State Safe Drinking Water Act Standards!

Please take a moment to read the FAQ's on the other side of this newsletter. You need to be informed about your drinking water! The recent attacks on the quality of our water system, totally unsupported by any facts, may serve the personal agenda of some individuals while doing nothing except harm to the interests of the community at large and our efforts here at your Authority! We are proud of our record and stand by it!

### UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS:

We had another busy year at the Authority and I am pleased to advise that our enhancements to the Wastewater Treatment Plant are basically complete. You may recall we installed sand filters and refurbished the aeration basins to enhance the wastewater treatment process. The new sewer sludge thickener system project was completed and is online and already showing substantial savings to the Authority! We also started on some water line upgrades to provide better service to you. The Colfax Avenue upgrade was done last fall with final paving to be completed this spring and we will start an upgrade to our lines in the Garden Road and Ringwood Avenue sections this spring. Our water supply system is now quite old in some areas and we are always reviewing it to make improvements when needed.

The real good news about all this is that thanks to very favorable loan, principal forgiveness and low interest rate programs available to us, we have undertaken and will complete all these projects without any impact on our rate structure! Thanks to ongoing cost conscious efforts by the commissioners and staff of your MUA, we have not raised your water and sewer rates since 1995! We are very proud of that! Regards,

G. D. DECKER, CHAIRMAN  
FEBRUARY, 2012



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# POMPTON LAKES MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY

LETS MAKE IT  
**CRYSTAL CLEAR**

Issue #14  
March, 2012

The Pompton Lakes MUA will continue to keep our customers informed on both water and wastewater matters with our newsletters

- **OUR DRINKING WATER CONTINUES TO MEET OR EXCEED ALL FEDERAL AND STATE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT STANDARDS**
- **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER**
- **UPDATE ON CAPITAL PROJECTS**

**George D. Decker – Chairman / Exec. Director**  
**Kevin P. Carroll – Vice Chairman/ Treasurer**  
**Lawrence DeMaio – Personnel Chairman / Sec.**  
**Neal Galletta – Water Comm. / Asst. Sec.**  
**Michael Longo – Sewer Comm. / Asst. Treasurer**

## **IS MY TAP WATER SAFE TO DRINK?**

Yes - to ensure the purity of our water, we test your drinking water continuously. In fact, we conduct more tests, and more frequently, than required by regulations. At the Pompton Lakes MUA, we take drinking water samples daily to confirm the absence of harmful substances. We use only chlorine, to kill any viruses or bacteria that could be present in ground water. A small (and harmless) amount of chlorine is left in the water to ensure its continued safety as it travels to you. Need a copy of our Annual Water Report? Stop by or contact the MUA at (973) 839 - 3044.

## **WHAT IS THE BEST CHOICE OF DRINKING WATER: BOTTLED OR TAP WATER?**

The answer is crystal clear: **tap water!** That's because our water is of excellent quality, monitored and affordable. When we look at issues such as quality, monitoring, and affordability we see that bottled water does not make the grade. For instance, some brands may be of excellent quality, but others can have inferior quality or they may simply be taken from municipal water supplies. For the price of one small bottle of water, you would be able to buy about 680 gallons of tap water.

Another important fact: there are fewer government regulations to guide the bottled water industry. For quality, consistency and affordability, **tap water wins every time.**

## **WHY IS THE WATER DISCOLORED SOMETIMES?**

Ground water naturally contains dissolved minerals including iron and/or manganese. These minerals settle out of the water and accumulate as sediment in the water mains running under the streets. MUA staff regularly flush the mains through fire hydrants to remove this accumulated sediment, and that action – or any other disturbance such as fire suppression, a main break, contractor work, or a flow test – can stir up sediment that results in discolored water if you use water during or immediately following the disturbance. If your water becomes discolored, run a cold water tap in the bathtub at full force for about 20 minutes, or until the water clears. Usually it clears up in just a few minutes. If it doesn't, call the MUA at (973) 839 - 3044.

## **WHAT IS THE WHITE RESIDUE ON POTS AND PANS AFTER I BOIL WATER?**

Pompton Lakes tap water is very "hard." Groundwater sources contain significant amounts of calcium and magnesium, and Pompton Lakes is no exception. The minerals in the water leave a conspicuous white residue or spots when water is boiled or evaporates. This residue is primarily calcium and is not harmful to human health. Even if you have a water softener, in most homes the kitchen cold water tap is plumbed to receive unsoftened water that still has calcium and magnesium.

## **WHERE DOES POMPTON LAKES' DRINKING WATER COME FROM?**

Pompton Lakes has wells that pump your drinking water from deep aquifers, an underground rock formation where water collects in small spaces among the rock.

## **WHAT IS WRONG IF I SMELL A ROTTEN EGG ODOR WHEN I RUN WATER IN MY HOUSE?**

The smell of rotten eggs indicates the presence of hydrogen sulfide. The odor originates as sewer gas being displaced from the drain when the tap is run. A simple test is to fill a glass with water, take it to a room that has no water running, and then smell the water. If the water no longer has an odor, the drain is the source. A remedy for cleaning the drain is to pour one-quarter cup of baking soda down the drain and follow it up with a cup of vinegar. When the fizzing stops, flush the drain with boiling water. Another successful method is pouring a cup of bleach down the drain.

If your tap water has an unusual taste or odor, call the MUA at (973) 839 - 3044..

## **WHY DOES MY DRINKING WATER SOMETIMES LOOK CLOUDY WHEN FIRST TAKEN FROM A FAUCET, AND THEN CLEAR UP?**

The cloudy water is caused by tiny little air bubbles in the water similar to gas bubbles in carbonated soft drinks. After a while, the bubbles rise to the top and are gone. This type of cloudiness occurs more often in the winter, when drinking water is cold.