

LETS MAKE IT  
**CRYSTAL CLEAR**

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George Decker – Chairman  
Kevin Carroll – Vice Chairman  
Alfred Lockwood – Asst. Treasurer/ Special Projects Chairman  
Lawrence DeMaio – Secretary/Water Chairman  
Neal Galletta – Asst. Secretary/ Sewer Chairman



**HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE POMPTON LAKES BOROUGH MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AUTHORITY COMMISSIONERS AND EMPLOYEES!**

**Winter Advisory...** During the winter months, it is very important to make sure snow is cleared from around hydrants near your home. It is important to turn off water supply lines to outside taps. We also recommend protecting your water meter during winter months by installing heat tape and/or insulation.

**Tap Water or Bottled Water...** Pompton Lakes water meets or exceeds state drinking water standards proving its' excellent quality and making it unnecessary to buy bottled water for health reasons. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requires that bottled water meets federal requirements for tap water, but the finished product is not governmentally monitored. Tap water is governmentally monitored and tested on a daily basis, ensuring quality. According to Robert Tibbles, of NBC Nightly News, bottled water consumption could outpace coffee, milk and beer by the end of the year, despite the fact that **bottled water costs almost 1000 times more than municipal water!** In addition to its high cost, in 2001 The World Wide Fund for Nature reported that 1.5 million tons of plastic are used each year to bottle water. Due to its inadequate regulations, high cost and generation of plastic waste, bottled water may not be the best choice. You be the judge.

**Sewer Maintenance, Property Owner's Responsibility...** The Borough of Pompton Lakes is responsible for maintaining unobstructed wastewater flow in the sanitary sewer system mains. The line that connects a house or building to the City sewer system is called a service lateral. If a blockage occurs causing a sewer backup, the Borough encourages residents to call so a crew can determine which part of a line is obstructed. A crew will check the main line and clear the line if necessary. If the main line is clear, the property owner will be notified of the need to call a plumber to clear the service lateral. The property owner is ultimately responsible for the entire length of the service lateral.

**HELPFUL TIPS FOR UNCLOGGING DRAINS SAFELY AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ...**

Alternatives should be explored to household drain cleaner because in most cases it contains hazardous substances. Try a plunger. It's low cost and very effective. Or try the old-fashioned trick of pouring baking soda, then vinegar down the drain, which also have proven to be very effective.

**To Prevent Sewer Backups in Your Home...**

- Avoid using hot water to dissolve grease on cookware. When dissolved grease touches pipes, it immediately coagulates and collects on walls of pipes. Dispose of properly
- Don't put eggshells in garbage disposal. They also collect on pipe walls.
- Always run water first before loading garbage disposal.
- Don't flush diapers, sanitary napkins and other bulky paper products down the toilet.

If you have any questions concerning your drinking water or any suggestions for this newsletter please contact John F. Wegele, Andrea Giallorenzo or Kathleen Shortway at the Pompton Lakes M.U.A. office, # 973.839.3044. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Also, visit our website at [www.plbmua.org](http://www.plbmua.org).

*Look for our Annual Consumer Confidence Report due out in late spring. It's good reading and very informative!*