



## City of Pataskala Utility Department Nathan W. Coey, Utility Director

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### ➤ Director Update

- 2018 Utility Budget. I have completed the 2018 budget review and submission for the Utility Department. I have also submitted my first draft of the 2018 Utility Department Goals and Initiatives to the City Administrator and Finance Director for review.
  - I have requested a promotional opportunity in the department. This position was developed and approved by the Public Board of Review in 2013. This position would not be an addition to the workforce but fully utilizing a current staff member in working supervisory role with increased responsibility. Additional information to follow during the budget review process.
- Under the Sewer Water Infrastructure Management Schedule (SWIMS), the following projects will be recommended in the 2018 budget as goals.
  - WRF Phosphorus Upgrade Project. I anticipate phosphorus limits in our NPDES permit in the near future. Biological nutrient removal includes increased sludge yields and consequently more equipment to process and store biosolids. In 2018 I will recommend the purchase of additional dewatering equipment with improved capture rates to reduce the soluble phosphorus load on the treatment process. Reducing the unnecessary load on the biological reactor may eliminate the need for additional phosphorus removal equipment. The current press is undersized and poor capture rate of 75%, current units on the market are in the 95% to 99% capture rate. I anticipate a budgetary request of \$400,000 to accomplish our 2018 goals. Capacity funds could be utilized for phase one of this project.
  - Creek Road Water Main Project. In efforts to improve hydraulic exchange in the distribution system, 3,000 feet of a new 12 inch water main on Creek Road from Township to the transmission main near River Forest is recommended. Currently the 12 inch transmission main from WTP2 transitions to a 6 inch transite (asbestos-cement) pipe on Creek Road and

causes a hydraulic 'bottleneck' in the system. Pending additional consultant review, I anticipate a budgetary figure for this project to be \$480,000 in the form of debt service.

- Denison, Poplar, and Willow Water Main Project. The water mains in this area are horribly undersized ranging from 2 inch to 4 inch. Project includes 1,800 feet of 8 inch main for proper hydraulic flow and system loop improvements to support fire flow. Pending consultant review I anticipate a budgetary figure for this project in the \$300,000 range in the form of debt service.
- Wastewater Collection System Update.
  - During the flooding event in July there was an overflow at the Creek Road Lift Station. While this is not ideal, the location of the station (proximity to the river and treatment site) prevented customer issues in the old village system. The lift station was overcome with flow and our submersible pumps could not keep up with the flow. Due to the quick thinking and quick response, the staff used our pipe work and portable pump to stop the overflow by sending flow to the north holding lagoon. All related reporting to the OEPA is complete.
  - Due to the heavy concentration of non-biodegradable hygiene products multiple pump clogs have occurred at the Sugar Mill Lift Station. These so called "flushable" products cause premature pump failure in addition to the man-hours to remove the blockages. We have purchased a new Flygt N-impeller non clog pump for this subdivision. This was a \$9,800 purchase and we will look to purchase an additional pump in the future. We installed these pumps at the Settlement Subdivision and have been in operation without issue since 2011.
  - A sewer back up occurred on Poppleton Place. The leading cause of this backup was related to an abundance of "flushable" products. The blockage was removed and investigation determined no issues with the main line or obstructions.
  - The recent issues has lead me to update our past "Can the trash, flush the waste" program. We will make an effort in the next month to get the word out to folks on the harm of these products.



## Pataskala Residents

### ***“Can the Trash, Flush the Waste”***

Please do not use your house hold drains or toilets as a trash can!

Drains, toilets, and sewers are designed to dispose of human waste, too often house hold drains and toilets are used as a trash can. Improperly disposed trash in the sewer system can lead to costly sewer overflow and backups and can cause harm to human life and the environment. Please take the time to dispose of trash properly, please see the items listed below that should not be flushed. When it comes to protecting the environment and our local water quality starts at home, please remember,

### ***“Can the trash, flush the Waste”***

#### **DO NOT FLUSH THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

##### **Medications**

*Prescription, over-the-counter, vitamins, illegal drugs, patches, and hypodermic needles*

##### **Cloth**

*Cleaning rags, nylon stockings, underwear, shop towels, mop heads, dental floss*

##### **Feminine Hygiene Products/Contraceptives**

*Sanitary pads, tampons, applicators, condoms and condom wrappers*

##### **Plastic**

*Plastic bags, plastic cotton swabs, disposable lighters, hotel shampoo bottles*

##### **Chemicals**

*Cleaning products, herbicides, insecticides, solvents, fuel, grease, any industrial or automotive fluids*

##### **Grease**

*Cooking oil, cooking grease,*

##### **Wipes/Diapers**

*Baby wipes, “disposable/flushable” wipes, cleaning wipes, adult/infant paper or cloth diapers*





➤ **Water Department**

- The Water Distribution System Hydraulic Modeling Study is nearly complete as we are in the final review stages. The study information is helpful for future developments in our service area. I will provide a copy of the final draft after our final review meeting with the consultant.
- A 'Drinking Water Advisory' notice of helpful information was created and sent to customers in light of recent advisories.

➤ **Water Reclamation Department**

- Researching options for a biosolids conveyor system to maximize building capacity.
- Researching options for an additional roof structure for the uncovered storage pad at the WRF.

➤ **Billing Department Update**

- The Billing Department continues to provide timely and outstanding customer service in their daily duties.
- The Billing Department sent out a notification to residents regarding future Drinking Water Advisories. *Please see attached notice of helpful information.*

Highest Regards, Nathan W. Coey, Utility Director

July 17, 2017



**Information Release regarding  
Drinking Water Quality Advisories**

*Utility Division*

Nathan W. Coey  
Utility Director

In response to our recent Water Quality Advisory (a.k.a. ‘boil alert’) we feel it is a good public service to review what an advisory means.

The Ohio EPA sets guidelines for issuance of advisory: “Water supplies in distribution systems must be protected against contamination (bacterial or chemical). Critical standards for water systems include: maintain continuous positive pressure; maintaining adequate chlorine residuals; having an adequate backflow prevention and cross connection control program; and ensuring the absence of coliform bacteria. Any disruption of a water distribution system that results in a loss of continuous positive pressure of at least twenty pounds per square inch gauge at ground level at any point in the distribution system may allow contaminants to enter the system. This includes depressurization due to physical disruptions such as line breaks, valve repairs, new construction, etc. and depressurization due to operational disruptions such as pump failure, power outages, telemetry failure, extreme fire flows, etc.”

Drinking water advisories could be issued if the Utility Department believes the water quality is or may be compromised through physical disruptions, operational disruptions, or water quality indicator test results. Potentially compromised drinking water is verified through continual laboratory testing of the drinking water. We conduct on average 4,222 water quality tests annually. Tests are collected and analyzed every day of the year. Test frequency and monitoring issued by the Ohio EPA ensures safe drinking water through operational compliance. The frequent testing serves as an indicator if deviation from normal or acceptable levels occurs. Whether acute or chronic changes, frequent testing provides an established consistent base range for all test components. Any changes are quickly realized. Any acute or chronic changes will result in a Drinking Water Quality Advisory to communicate changes to our customers. If you are interested in learning more about our treatment process please visit our webpage and review our ‘Consumer Confidence Reports and ‘Source Water Protection Plan’ <http://www.cityofpataskalaohio.gov/city-departments/utilities/interesting-facts-and-information/>

The main purpose of a drinking water advisory is to provide information, encourage preparedness, and recommend action to our consumers. The Utility Department may issue advisories for the following reasons:

- **Informational Advisory**. This is a notification of planned activities (maintenance work, valve repair, hydrant flushing) that may have the potential for water service disruption. This is more of a courtesy in case pressure changes or construction activities impact the water mains that serve you.



- **Boil Water Advisory (Drinking water advisories?)**. This is the most common type of advisory issued to our customers. This advisory issued as a precaution as a result of a main water line repair job or system depressurization. Anytime we install or replace/repair new parts due to a failure (pipe, valve, hydrant, etc.) we disinfect the components prior to installation to ensure proper treatment of any potential residual. We then flush the affected area to remove any potential sediment and ensure proper disinfection residual level for a bacteria sample. When we follow disinfection practices the bacteria sample will return negative.
  - During Boil Advisories it is recommended any water used for consumption be boiled. It is safe to use the water for any other activities (i.e. showering, bathing, washing dishes, washing clothes, etc....) but human consumption is not advised. Alternative sources of water (bottled water) is recommended for drinking and brushing teeth. Water boiled prior to cooking is recommended.
  - For future repair jobs we will notify the public of a boil alert if disinfection practices cannot be followed due to poor dig or weather conditions.
- **Do Not Drink Water Advisory**. This would be issued if testing indicates a chemical and toxin contamination in which boiling water is not effective. This advisory would be issued if the water is determined to not be consumable.
- **Do Not Use Advisory**. This would be issued when testing indicates microbial, chemical, toxin or radiologic contaminations occur. These are rare nationwide but if issued the water should not be used for any reason.

In the event that a Drinking Water Advisory is issued by the Pataskala Utility Department we will utilize any and all means to communicate this to our customers. Usually, if an advisory is issued the department is in an adverse situation. In an emergency, or if the advisory applies to a large area door to door notification is not practical. The following methods will be used to communicate advisories:

- Information will be posted to the City's website, Facebook.
- Information release to as many local media sources that respond to our request. Television news stations and local newspapers.
- The City is working towards implementation of an auto call system (similar to what local school districts use) to get the word to you in a means you choose. When the time comes to roll this out you can sign up for the personalized notification service.
- Billboard signs and sandwich board signs will be utilized at major intersections for affected areas to notify motorists.
- We will always do our best to personally notify schools and medical care facilities to any unplanned disruptions.

We need your help! Modern notifications only work if we and you have internet, electric, phone service, etc. We will always do our best to notify our customers. If you know of any shut-in or immobile neighbors please help spread the word. Keep a supply of reserve drinking water in the event of any outage. Please be prepared for a disruption at any time. The age of our infrastructure can fail without warning. The most recent failure on Broad Street was unimaginable on a section of plastic pipe that is merely 20 years old. It suffered a fracture in the entire length of the pipe. The cause is believed to be settling due to a storm drain pipe only inches above the water main.

The goal of the Utility Department is to provide the best, uninterrupted service as possible. Planned service work is our goal because it allows for preparedness. We get notices out and make sure we have the right parts and equipment on site to address any outages or problems. We fully

recognize emergency jobs come with an inconvenience for the customers and our staff. We always strive to be diligent and work as a team to get the word out and get the system repaired as soon as possible.

Please keep these tips in mind. An informed customer is a knowledgeable customer.

- If you see standing water and/or water pressure fluctuations, call the Utility Department.
- If you ever notice air in a faucet and/or intermittent water flow call the Utility Department.
- If you ever see changes in your water quality, color, clarity, etc. call the Utility Department.
- Use your senses, these are usually indicators that things are not normal and not going to plan in the system.
- Please keep drinking water in storage for emergency situations.

Please don't hesitate to call our office line at 740-964-6275 or the after hour emergency line at 740-927-6867.

Thank you for your time, please contact me should you have any questions.

Nathan W. Coey  
Utility Director