

Spring 2017 – Customer Notices & Updates

Hot Topic: Drought & Water Supply Update

Due to prolonged dry conditions across the state and precipitation well below normal in 2016, our region continues to fall under a drought watch declaration by the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. In addition, Lehigh County Authority has retained the services of a hydrogeologist to help us determine when local water levels pose additional risk to our ability to supply our customers. Please visit lehighcountyauthority.org/littlelehigh for updates!

How are LCA's water supplies holding up? While the spring months typically offer much-needed recharge of our local water supplies due to all the "spring showers," both groundwater and stream levels are starting at a significant deficit due to the very dry, hot summer and fall we experienced in 2016. Local conditions are being monitored closely to determine how well the water levels will recover prior to the peak summer usage period. LCA's water supplies continue to be adequate to meet the needs of the community. However, because of the dry conditions in 2016, we need a wet spring season to maintain a normal supply, and your help in conserving water where possible is appreciated!



What about the Little Lehigh Creek? Water flows in the Little Lehigh Creek declined throughout 2016 due to the drought. Just before Thanksgiving, two sections of the creek went completely dry, but normal flows resumed downstream. While this is quite distressing to see, it is important to note that the Little Lehigh Creek has a long history of "losing water" in certain stretches of the creek as water goes underground into the local groundwater supply, and that same water "reappears" in the stream flow further downstream. The rain and snow we received beginning in December 2016 has helped to replenish the stream, but we will continue to monitor conditions and post updates online.

How can you help? Water conservation is always helpful, but especially now as we await full recovery from the 2016 drought. Ideas for conserving water in the spring include:

- Set up your rain barrel if you have one and use rain water for watering new lawns and gardens.
- Plan your gardens and landscaping using native plants that thrive in Pennsylvania weather patterns and require less water (Visit dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/plants/nativeplants for more info.)
- Check your hoses for leaks while planning your spring/summer yard work. Repair those leaks!
- Toilets are usually the number 1 "water hog" in the home – check for leaks at least 4 times a year.

**2017 Water
System
Flushing
Schedule –
See page 2!**

Water Quality Report Available Online:

Each year, we provide our customers with an annual Water Quality Report to let you know how our water quality stacks up against federal and state standards for safe drinking water. We encourage you to review this report as it provides details about the source and quality of the drinking water delivered to your community in 2016. Please visit us online to view the report for our Allentown Division: lehighcountyauthority.org/wp-content/uploads/ALD.pdf. If you wish to have a paper copy, you can print one directly from the website. You can also receive a printed version by contacting us at 610-437-7515.

Attention landlords, businesses, schools, restaurants and other large employers! Please share this info with tenants, students, employees, patrons and other water users at your location who do not receive an LCA water bill.

*Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre se agua potable.
Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo intenda bien.*

2017 Water System Flushing Schedule:

Lehigh County Authority (LCA) will complete systemwide flushing of the water system in Allentown during the spring and summer months. This is an important maintenance program that helps to ensure your water system is maintaining proper disinfection, and to clean out the water lines in your neighborhood.

What should you do when LCA is flushing in your area? If you see a crew flushing a hydrant on your street, *avoid running tap water, using the washing machine, or running the dishwasher until the flushing is complete* to avoid drawing discolored water into your home plumbing. If possible, completely avoid using your hot water as this may draw discolored water into your hot water heater allowing the discoloration to persist for long periods of time. After the flushing is completed in your area, turn on your cold water tap. If you encounter discolored water, shut the water off and wait several minutes before you turn on your cold water tap again.

Safety Notice: If you see hydrant flushing crews working in the area, please drive carefully and treat them like any other road construction crew.

Brown Water Notice: Discoloration of your water after system flushing only affects the appearance of the water. There is no health risk associated with the discoloration of water after system flushing.

Schedule: The 2017 flushing schedule is shown below and should be considered as tentative depending on the weather. Unless otherwise noted, flushing will occur during daytime hours.

March 20th– March 26th: Ward 3 and Ward 13	Center City, south of Hamilton, between 7 th and 19 th Streets
March 27th – April 2nd: Ward 18	West Allentown, south of Hamilton, west of 19 th Street
April 3rd – April 9th: Ward 7 and Ward 11	Center City, north of Hamilton, between 9 th and 26 th Street
April 10th – April 23rd: Ward 17	West Allentown, north of Hamilton, west of 22 nd Street
April 24th – April 30th: Ward 8 and Ward 11	North Allentown, north of Gordon Street, between 7 th and 22 nd Streets
May 1st – May 14th: Ward 12	South Allentown, south of the Little Lehigh Creek and west of the railroad tracks, from Trout Creek Park to Bicentennial Park and on the Queen City Airport area
May 15th – May 21st: Ward 1, 2, 5 and 4	Center City, both north and south of Hamilton, between 4 th and 9 th Streets
May 22rd – May 28th: Ward 10	North Allentown, east of 7 th Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue
May 29th – June 4th: Ward 8	North Allentown, west of 7 th Street, between Liberty Street and Sumner Avenue
June 5th – June 11th: Ward 9 and Ward 6	Center City, north of Hamilton, east of Law Street and following north up along the Lehigh River
June 12th – June 25th: Ward 14	East Allentown, east of the Lehigh River, from Keck Park north up to the East Side Fire Station
*June 26th – July 16th: Ward 15 (Minus the high elevation system)	East Allentown, north and east of the East Side Fire station, and then south toward the Allentown State Hospital area
*July 17th – July 23rd: Ward 16 (Minus the high elevation system)	South Allentown, south of the Lehigh River and east of the railroad tracks, south down to Chapel Avenue
*July 24th- August 13th: Ward 19 (Minus the high elevation system)	South Allentown, south and east of Trout Creek Park, down to the South Mountain Reservoir and Park area

**After these areas are completed the high elevation system will be flushed at night time from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. There are 105 hydrants in these areas which include Ward 15, 16, 19 and 28th Street. The high elevation hydrants in the system are silver and black in color.*

Please contact LCA at 610-437-7515 if you have any questions about our flushing program!