



# UMHJSA Newsletter

FALL/WINTER, 2015

This newsletter is published by the Authority to keep its service area customers up-to-date on current and new projects and activities.

**Our Board Members are:**

Kent Nelson, Chairman  
George W. Lewis, Vice Chairman  
Steven Covaleski, Secretary  
Eric C. Lindhult, Treasurer  
George Hartman, III, Ass't Secretary  
Alex Kalnajs, Ass't Treasurer

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**A Reminder Note:** Our Administration Office hours are 7:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M., Monday through Friday. Payments may be put in the mail slot at other times---no cash, please---checks or money orders only!!

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**IMPORTANT:** Payments must be received by the due date. A 10% penalty will be added to bill payments which are received late.

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The Authority thanks retiring General Manager, **William Washnock, P.E.**, for 23 years of dedicated service to the Authority and its customers. We wish him all the best!

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**SEWER BACKING UP?** If your sewer is backing up, call us before you call a plumber. We'll determine where the problem is, and advise you what needs to be done. And we'll do it for free. When it comes to sewer problems, we're the Authority! Call 215-659-1462.

**CLEANER WATER IS COMING YOUR WAY!** UMHJSA has been mandated by Federal and State Agencies to continually improve our output into the Pennypack Creek. During each discharge permit five-year cycle, we are required to improve our discharge. This requires periodic upgrading and installing new processing equipment, an expensive endeavor. To help cover these mandated more stringent discharge limits, the Authority, after extensive discussion, will implement a rate increase effective January 1, 2016. Our last rate increase was on March 1, 2013. The following are our new rates:

	Current Rate 5,000 gallons	New Rate 5,000 gallons
<u>Residential</u> (minimum)	\$31.05	\$33.84
Estimate (per qtr)	\$111.78	\$121.84
Per 1,000 gal.	\$ 6.21	\$6.77
<u>Commercial</u> (minimum)	\$38.90	\$42.40
Estimate(per qtr)	140.04	\$152.64
Per 1,000 gal	\$7.78	\$8.48

Fixture rates will increase by 9%.

Despite this increase, the rates paid by our customers remain below the majority of the surrounding communities. The Authority is carefully monitoring potential regulatory changes that may require significant capital improvements and further rate increases.

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## **Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) in the Sanitary Sewers**

In the sanitary sewers, there is a situation that is costing homeowners and the Authority several hundreds of thousand dollars each year. Many communities refer to this problem simply as the FOG monster (Fats, Oils, Grease) or the CLOG monster since FOG is the main cause of sewer clogs. The UMHJSA FOG monster is a costly problem that grows every time someone pours any fats, oils, and grease down the drain.

A sewer back-up can be a very yucky, grimy, stinky, and costly mess! Our goal is to minimize the chance of this occurring. It is only with the help of all the residents that this can be done. FOG hardens and the tiny bits stick together as they flow down the sewer pipe. These nasty clumps attach to the solids normally found in the sewage and larger yucky masses grow. Soon these clumps start to stick to the sides of the pipes and slow down the flow of the sewage. The slower flow promotes the growth of larger and larger clumps. The situation worsens until the sewer pipe is clogged and the sewage starts to back up. The result is a mess that no one wants.

Fats, oils, and grease are usually byproducts of cooking. They can be found in meats, lards, cooking oils, butter, margarine, shortening, creams, sauces, salad dressings, and dairy products. Even a small amount of grease that goes down the drain as you are cleaning up after cooking will combine with the grease from your neighbors. Soon, another FOG monster is created. The easiest way to solve this problem and help prevent backups and sewage overflows is to keep FOG out of the system. Here's what you can do to help:

- Do not pour oil, grease, or fats down the drain.
- Soak up the grease after frying with paper towels and put in the trash.
- Pour larger amounts of used cooking grease into a container with a lid. Refrigerate to harden, and then place in trash. (Great way to recycle containers from take-outs.)
- Minimize the use of your garbage disposal. Put food scraps into the garbage.
- Never pour motor oils down the drain! This is illegal.

Put the FOG monster on a fat-free diet and our whole community will benefit.