

## Flowing into the Future

With our daily household chores, public sewer offers a distinct environmental advantage at a nominal quarterly charge. Cumberland Township Authority was created over sixty years ago as the countryside around Gettysburg began to see more housing and commercial development. Local leaders in Cumberland Township and the Commonwealth (PA Dept. of Environmental Resources), as it was then called, also saw the need to keep the soils clean, prohibiting additional on lot sewage. When you flush, do laundry, bathe, do dishes, or use potable water, it goes into a centralized piping system and disappears. Or does it?

The Romans pioneered the construction of extensive sewer networks around the 6th century. Urban areas (large population centers) drained excess wastewater away from public bathing areas and private homes using a combination of piping systems made of brick, stone, and concrete in underground channels. This was a testament to their emphasis on hygiene and sanitation for improved quality of life.

In the 1800s', disease prevention was being realized in rapidly growing urban areas of the United States. Open ditches were replaced with underground piping to rural areas or waterways. This method was prohibited in 1800 without a permit from the Army Corp of Engineers. Centralized treatment systems today are sensitive to the environment and well regulated by the Pa. Dept. of Environmental Protection. Cumberland Township Authority has two modern treatment facilities that operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We'll discuss more on this operation in a future edition of The Flow Zone.

### Your Authority Board

Rich Redding

Steve Niebler

Steve Toddles

Jim Williams

Andrew Wampler

Country homes located away from a public system have rather expensive on-lot disposal systems (OLDS) that treat and dispose of domestic waste on the property through natural processes. Each municipality must have a Pa. certified Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) who issues permits for OLDS systems. One quarter of Pennsylvania's residents depend on individual septic systems to treat their wastewater. These systems are the responsibility of the property owner.

With significant growth in Cumberland Township, the Authority is constantly brainstorming long range planning and upgrades to the operations. The Authority is completing many of these upgrades thanks to grant funds from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, other funding sources, and sound financial planning without increasing rates in 2026.

The Authority's modern operation will be discussed in the next edition of The Flow Zone. --Stay tuned.

**Ben Thomas, Jr. - Admin Manager**

## Did you know?

There are loans and grants available for homeowners to complete septic repairs and public sewer hookups!

Septic disasters can be COSTLY. Hooking up to public sewer can also cost a chunk of change the average person might not have just lying around. There is hope! There are a variety of low-interest loan and grant options available to help you cover those costs. Let's see our options...

### **Pennsylvania Infrastructure Investment Authority (PENNVEST) Homeowner Septic Loan Program:**

This program provides low-interest loans for on-lot septic system repairs, replacement, or connections to public sewer. Visit [pa.gov/agencies/pennvest](http://pa.gov/agencies/pennvest)

### **Single Family Housing Repair Loans & Grants:**

This program provides low-interest loans to low-income residents and grants for residents over 62. Navigate to [rd.usda.gov/programs-services](http://rd.usda.gov/programs-services) to learn more.

### **Keystone Renovate & Repair Loan**

Another low-interest loan program to help improve habitability and connect to local sewer. Stop by [pahfa.org](http://pahfa.org) to read all about it.

Connecting to public sewer or repairing a failing septic system doesn't have to drain your savings. With programs like those listed above, homeowners have a safety net in case the poop hits the fan, literally. Taking advantage of these resources can help protect your investment, your health, and the environment all while keeping costs manageable.

...and Scholarships for future Operators!

### **Future Leaders Scholarship:**

The purpose of this scholarship is to increase knowledge and awareness of authority service and the need for qualified employees in the industry. Awards range from \$1,000-\$3,000. Deadline to apply for this round is March 15, 2026. Visit [municipalauthorities.org](http://municipalauthorities.org) for more information!

### **American Water Inclusion & Diversity Scholarship Program:**

Pennsylvania American Water provides 10 renewable scholarships of \$10,000 to students residing in or attending college in PA. Head to [amwater.com/paaw/news-community/careerstream](http://amwater.com/paaw/news-community/careerstream) to find out eligibility requirements and apply!

## Capital Improvements Corner

South Plant Improvements - Post Equalization, UV System & Digester Conversion: Infrastructure upgrade designed to handle increasing wastewater flows and repurpose two aging digester tanks for improved sludge handling and storage capacity. Work is 90% complete.

South Collection System - Project Complete.

Biosolids Dewatering Evaluation: Applications for funding for this project have been submitted and the Engineer has scheduled a pilot study for spring.






Herr's Ridge/Biglerville Road Extension: we are looking for ways to expand our service to more residents! If you reside in this area and would like to hook up to public sewer, or know a neighbor who might, send them our way!

## Keep Things FLOW-ing!




### Garbage Disposals! Use 'em Right!

Your garbage disposal is a handy kitchen tool, but what goes down the drain can have a big impact on our sewer system. Improper items can cause clogs, backups, and costly repairs. Take a look at some tips for keeping things flowing...

#### SKIP IT

-  FOG: You've heard it here before, folks! Fat, oil, and grease can harden and block lines
-  Stringy & fibrous items, like celery and onion skins can tangle in your system, catching other solids and creating clogs.
-  Pasta, rice, and other starchy foods can swell up and, well, you know what happens next!
-  Coffee grounds and eggshells are also notorious for gumming up the works.
-  Non-food items. You already know this rule!

#### A-OK

-  Small amounts of soft food scraps
-  Cold water... keep it running to ensure you are flushing the waste all the way to road, don't give it a chance to dry out and stick to your pipes. Ice cubes are an eco-friendly way to clean
-  Smaller bones, like fish, chicken, or pork and small portions of cooked meat.

Keep your infrastructure safe and your plumbing repair costs low by making good disposal decisions!

## What is That?



This is a biosolids storage tank! This is the final resting place before the sludge is pumped out and spread on fields. Our future sludge press will make this process more environmentally friendly and efficient.

## Customer Service Corner

#### Upcoming Billing Dates:

Bills out - January 5 & Due February 5

Bills out - April 1 & Due May 1

Bills out - July 1 & Due August 1

Bills out - October 1 & Due November 1

Visit our customer portal at [cta.authoritypay.com](http://cta.authoritypay.com) to sign up for autopay, e-billing, and to use a credit card.

#### NEW! PAY-BY-PHONE! 717-837-5750

Our payment drop box is located in front of our office suite at 1270 Fairfield Road, Suite 9. The west entrance to the complex, next to the post office box.

## Who are They?

### What is a Riverkeeper?

The Guardians of our Rivers! A Riverkeeper is an environmental advocate dedicated to protecting and restoring a specific river and its watershed. Riverkeepers typically work within the Waterkeeper Alliance network and serve as the “eyes and ears” of the waterway.

Our area is unique in that it feeds two major watersheds, The Susquehanna River Basin and the Potomac River Basin, each of which flow into the Chesapeake Bay. This means that our local runoff impacts not only our own water quality, but also that of our downstream neighbors for hundreds of miles!

In conjunction with local groups, like the Watershed Alliance of Adams County (do you remember the WAAC from our last edition?!), riverkeepers monitor water quality, organize cleanups, and hold polluters accountable through legal action. An important line of defense as environmental protections continue to be stripped away in favor of profits.

The streams and creeks in northern part of Adams County mostly flow toward the Susquehanna. The Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper, Ted Evgeniadis, is a stalwart warrior on the front lines of protecting the Suskie. He has won many awards through his work, including Waterkeeper Outstanding Win Award in 2023 for a string of clean water victories ranging from coal ash and sewage overflows to PFAS contamination.

The streams and creeks in Cumberland Township flow toward the Potomac. The Upper Potomac Riverkeeper, Brent Walls, brilliantly meshes his background in Environmental Science and interest in technology to help keep our water clean. Examples include drone pollution surveillance and a mobile app to report water pollution.

Protecting our waterways starts at home. Riverkeepers like Ted and Brent are on the front lines, but they can't do it alone! Every action we take from reducing runoff to supporting local watershed groups... like the WAAC!... helps safeguard our collective water supply. Clean water is a shared responsibility! Get involved!

### Important Links:

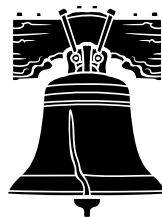
The Waterkeeper Alliance  
**[waterkeeper.org](http://waterkeeper.org)**

Lower Susquehanna Riverkeeper  
**[lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org](http://lowersusquehannariverkeeper.org)**

Upper Potomac Riverkeeper  
**[potomacriverkeepernetwork.org](http://potomacriverkeepernetwork.org)**

Watershed Alliance of Adams County  
**[adamswatersheds.org](http://adamswatersheds.org)**

## Community Corner



It's America's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday! Visit [destinationgettysburg.com](http://destinationgettysburg.com) for a list of events celebrating this milestone, in Gettysburg & beyond!



Take a ride into the past! Hop on the newly opened Gettysburg Railway for a historic, scenic adventure!  
[gettysburgrailway.com](http://gettysburgrailway.com)

