

# Authority Times

News and Information for Customers  
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority



Volume I Issue 1  
Summer 2014

## Community Garden Blooms on Authority Site

**T**he community garden, which is situated on an Authority-owned lot adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant, is almost full with about 60 active plots.

This is the garden's third growing season and it hosts a diverse community of novice and experienced green thumbs ranging from retired couples, singles and families with kids.

Plots are 10-by-10. The fee is \$45 for the season, which helps defray water costs and any additional needs.

The Community Garden has seen an increase in membership this year and has added an extra compost bin, an extra water line and the planting of native species plants and milkweed (for Monarch butterflies) around the front perimeter.

Additionally, from the collected fees the Community Garden has established a relationship with the Conshohocken Elementary School to teach the students about gardening. The Community Garden has provided grow lights for seed propagation, as well as two plots for the school.



### BOARD MEMBERS

**Felix Raimondo**  
Chairman

**Mark Danek**  
Vice Chairman

**Matthew Kelly**  
Secretary

**Carol Smith**  
Treasurer

**Anita Barton**  
Board Member

### MEETINGS

July 17  
August 21  
September 18  
October 16  
November 20  
December 18

Meetings are held in  
the Authority Office:  
601 E. Elm St.  
Conshohocken

Meeting time 6:30 PM

## Studies, Infrastructure Upgrades Planned for 2014

The Borough of Conshohocken Authority will undertake an odor control study, inspect and repair deficient portions of the Authority's 21 miles of pipe infrastructure and use a GIS Mapping System to identify deficiencies within the col-

lection conveyance system as part of its five-year capital improvement plan.

The plan is the five-year roadmap for creating, maintaining and funding current and future infrastructure requirements. It address-

es the Authority's needs related to the acquisition, expansion, and rehabilitation of long-lived facilities and infrastructure and serves as a planning instrument to identify needed capital expenditures and to coordinate the financing and

timing of improvements in a way that maximizes the return to the Authority's 3,000 customers.

It is not the same as the capital budget, which represents the first year of the five-year capital im-  
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# Authority Addresses Odors

## BCA to Undertake Odor Control Study

Over recent years, the Authority's more than 2 million gallon average daily flow wastewater treatment plant has become surrounded by more residential development. Planning for additional riverfront development places more residents in close proximity to the plant.

With more residents in its vicinity, the Borough of Conshohocken Authority, as part of its mission to be good urban neighbors, hired Webster Environmental Associates of Louisville, Ky. to conduct an Odor Control Study.

In the coming months, Webster Environmental Associates will be evaluating and designing odor control improvements. The timeline is as follows:

- July: Start the odor control study (taking air samples, temperature, wind direction, water samples etc.)
- September/October: The board will receive a comprehensive report which will outline the cause and location of the odor, along with recommendations on how to eliminate it

- The board will analyze information from the report to use as a planning tool in developing capital improvements to the treatment plant that may include odor control equipment

- The board will give direction to engineering staff to seek bids for completing the scope of work

- Spring/Summer 2015: If odor control equipment is needed, installation may be completed by the Spring/Summer of 2015

In the meantime, if you are experiencing odors that may be coming from the treatment plant, we encourage you to call or email us. This information will help the wastewater treatment plant continue to be a good neighbor. When calling, please leave the following information: Your name, address and telephone number, time of complaint and what the odor smells like. We can be reached at 610-828-0979 or through the "CONTACT US" link on [conshohockensa.com](http://conshohockensa.com).

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Why do we smell odors near the plant?

Odors are a natural part of the substances handled and treated at any wastewater treatment plant

Odors are typically contained to the wastewater treatment plant site, but occasionally odors drift from the plant site depending on weather conditions and wind direction

Routine treatment operations are designed to reduce the amount of odors present; however, certain weather conditions and equipment maintenance may lessen the effectiveness of these odor control operations

### What causes odors?

Most odors detected in and around wastewater treatment plants are signals that nature's treatment process is working: Organic matter is decomposing and pollutants are being removed from the wastewater

As the table at right shows, three major odorous compounds naturally occurring in the treatment process, hydrogen sulfide, amines and mercaptans, are detectable by the human nose at extremely low concentrations

### Odorous Compounds in Wastewater

Compound Name	Recognition Threshold parts per million	Odor Description
Allyl mercaptan	0.0015	Disagreeable, garlic
Ammonia	37	Pungent, irritating
Amyl mercaptan	----	Unpleasant, putrid
Diisopropyl amine	0.38	Fishy
Dimethyl amine	----	Putrid, fishy
Ethyl amine	1.7	Ammonialike
Ethyl mercaptan	0.001	Decayed cabbage
Hydrogen sulfide	0.0047	Rotten eggs
Indole	----	Fecal, nauseating
Methyl amine	----	Putrid, fishy
Methyl mercaptan	0.0010	Rotten cabbage

From Table 2.1, *Odor Control in Wastewater Treatment Plants*, 1995, WEF & American Society of Civil Engineers

## Studies, Upgrades Planned for 2014

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provement plan and once approved authorizes specific projects and appropriates, where applicable, specific project funding during that fiscal year.

### Treatment Plant projects

The following projects are listed for completion in 2014:

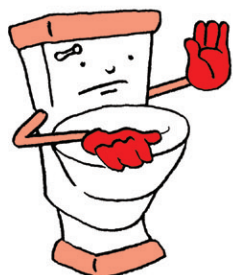
- Odor Control Study
- Influent meter
- Solids handling Study (Digester A and Digester B)
- Rotating Biological Contactor Train C Units

### Collection system projects

These projects support the 21 miles of underground pipe infrastructure. This system conveys wastewater to the treatment plant. The following projects are listed for completion in 2014:

- GIS Mapping System is new technology that assists the collections department identify deficiencies within the collection conveyance system and keeps the Authority's pipe infrastructure current with the location of manholes and pipe throughout the borough.
- Collection Rehabilitation is an ongoing effort to keep I/I to a minimum. The collection department is aggressively inspecting the 21 miles of sewer pipe. As deficiencies are located, the Authority gathers this information and goes out to bid to fix the deficiencies.

If you have questions about any of the projects feel free to contact us through email at [conshohockensa.com](mailto:conshohockensa.com). Thank you for your interest in BCA. Additional information on the Authority's Capital Improvements can be found on the Authority website at [www.conshohockensa.com](http://www.conshohockensa.com).



## To Flush or Not to Flush?

These items should NOT be flushed down the toilet

- Baby wipes or diapers
- Disposable wipes
- Paper towels
- Pesticides
- Paint
- Pharmaceuticals
- Feminine products
- Fat, grease, oil
- Cat litter