

Authority Times

News and Information for Customers
of the Borough of Conshohocken Authority

Volume IX Issue 2
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BCA Donates \$1,000 to Community Garden

The Borough of Conshohocken Authority made a \$1,000 contribution to the Conshohocken Community Garden. Conshohocken Community Garden is an unincorporated, membership-based organization that provides a community of common-interest members a space, education, and fellowship focused on sustainable gardening. Located at 499 E. Elm Street, the garden has 68 plots, a community gathering area, shed, composting area, and shared fruit trees, herb garden, and other plots.

Join the Conshohocken Community Garden and get a 10×10 plot for only \$45 per year. For more information or to find out how to join, visit their website at conshohocken-communitygarden.com



BOARD MEMBERS

JANENE REILLY
Chair

CAROL SMITH
Vice Chair

TINA SOKOLOWSKI
Secretary

APARNA CHHIBBER

GEORGE BASS

MEETINGS

October 25
November 22
December 27
January 24
February 28
March 28

**Meetings are held in
the Authority office:
601 East Elm St.
Conshohocken**

Meeting time 6:30 pm



Marty Higgins

New Processes Lower Costs

For the first time in more than 30 years, the Conshohocken Borough Authority's two plant digesters are operating at optimum performance levels. Operational problems had increased costs and projected capital Improvements expenses. Process changes were made to reduce said costs and have had a domino effect of positive results, ultimately saving the Authority and its ratepayers on operating costs and avoiding a \$3 million

premature expense.

The new interim executive director met with the operations manager and staff to explore a new approach to sludge handling. Steps taken include increasing air rates to digesters, more frequently decanting excess water from the digesters and the gravity thickener and reconfiguring the digesters from tandem operation to running in series.

(Continued on Back Page)

Authority Bowls Over Funfest Crowd

The Authority continues to support and participate in Conshohocken's Funfest celebration. Authority representatives handed out note pads, bookmarkers and candy as children tossed rolls of toilet paper into our toilet basket during the recent event. It was

delightful to be able to speak to community members and answer questions about our services. If you are interested in a tour of the wastewater treatment plant, contact Borough of Conshohocken Operations Manager Eddie Mongan at (610) 828-0979 ext. 105.

Operational Processes Lessen Costs

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The introduction and continual addition of seed sludge with healthy bacteria from another wastewater facility has dramatically improved the breakdown of biosolids.

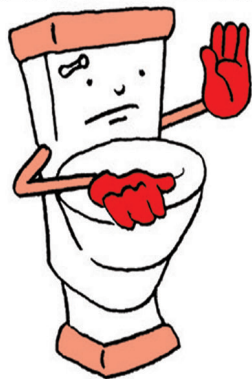
One notable improvement is assigning Marty Higgins as the primary Belt Filter Press Operator to oversee the dewatering process. Marty was hired on Sept. 30, 2013, as a Utility Person. A Conshohocken resident, he appreciates his role serving the community. Marty received training from outside consultants to optimize the belt filter press operation and has improved the overall performance of the press. Marty improved the usual solids percentage of the dewatered sludge (cake) from 10 percent to 17 percent, seeing results as high as 21 percent. This means the Authority is hauling more cake and less water to the landfill, which reduces costs and increases efficiency.

Our capital plan was to replace the belt filter press with a screw-press technology, but it was determined that with the changes in operations, the current belt press operates correctly given properly maintained digesters and a trained, primary press operator.



To Flush or Not to Flush?

These items should NOT be flushed down the toilet



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