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3933 PATTERSON ROAD
BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48708
(989)684-3883

www.baycodws.org

The Water Cooler

Newsletter First Issue

Hello and welcome to the new, quarterly Bay County Department of Water and Sewer (BCDWS) newsletter! We're happy that you have taken a few minutes of your time to read it.

This newsletter is for you, the customers of the Bay County Department of Water & Sewer. Our goal is to get you more information about your water and sewer services. In each issue, you will find things such as tap water test results, water quality information, DWS happenings, and any updates that you may want to know.

If you'd like to sign up to have the newsletter emailed to you, contact us at: <https://baycodws.org/newsletters/>. You can also sign up to having the newsletter mailed to your house.

Once you read through the newsletter, we'd love to hear from you. What do you want to see in future issues? What can we do better? Let us know!

PFAS Not Detected in Tap Water

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) were not found in water plant tap samples collected in January and March 2021.

PFAS became a nationwide concern recently when it was linked to health issues. Fortunately, since we started testing for it in 2018, PFAS has never been detected in our tap water.

For decades, PFAS chemicals have been used in many industrial applications and consumer products. These include carpeting, waterproof clothing, upholstery, food paper wrappings, personal care products, fire-fighting foams, and metal plating. They are still used today.

The plant tap will be tested for PFAS on a yearly basis. The next sample will be collected in 2022.

Inside this issue

Payment Drop Box	2
Featured Employee.....	2
Hydrant Flushing.....	2
Water Quality Report.....	3
New Hires	4
HydroCorp	4
The Department.....	4
Water Treatment Plant.....	4

Special points of interest

- Home Owners and Sewer Back-ups
- HydroCorp
- Water Quality Report
- PFAS



Payment Drop Box

Recently Bay County Department of Water and Sewer added a payment drop box outside the main gate. Payments can now be made 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. This new payment method is in addition to phone payments, online payment, mail in payments and bank draft payments. Bay County Department of Water and Sewer is not responsible for cash left in the drop box.

The driveway allows customers to make a payment without leaving their vehicle. "This is a total game changer", said Keri a mother of two children. "Now I don't have to even get out of my car."

The office continues to be closed to the public, but we are still working diligently to provide service to customers. If you have any questions or concerns, you may reach us at (989)684-3883 Monday through Friday from 7:30am – 12:30pm or 1:30pm – 4:00pm.

"This is a total game changer." - Keri a mother of two

Featured Employee

Meet Ryan Goebel the Bay Area Water Treatment Plant Superintendent. Ryan has worked at the water plant since before it began producing water in 2015. Prior to working for Bay County Department of Water and Sewer, Ryan worked for the Bay City Water Treatment Plant.

Ryan enjoys water so much that he has a pool full of water and huge super soaker collection. Ryan is also a part-time student at Saginaw Valley State University, a full time father of two and full time husband.



Hydrant Flushing Continues



Throughout the summer you may see BCDWS crews flushing hydrants, but have you ever wondered why they're doing it?

The answer is to flush water out of the dead ends. A dead end is a water main that stops. The water in this main must be removed from the main in order for fresh water to move in.

With some dead ends, consumer usage isn't enough to replace water in the main, and chlorine levels start to drop. DWS employees check for this

throughout the summer and flush out the 'old' water.

While 'old' water isn't necessarily unsafe, our goal is to keep a certain level of chlorine in all the water throughout the distribution system. This ensures that our customers are all receiving water that is safe, fresh, and free of odors.

A long-term solution is to 'loop' the dead ends, so water can't sit in the main. We are reviewing our system and plan to address and eliminate some of them in the future.



Available at - [2020 Water Quality Report](#)

Dale C. Retires

After working more than 30 years at the Bay County Department of Water and Sewer Dale C. has retired. Dale worked for the water distribution department repairing water mains, maintaining valves, flushing hydrants, tracking valve locations and performing other duties required to maintain the water system. Dale enjoys spending time with friends and family, motorcycles and photography. We wish Dale the best of luck .



Pictured left to right. Vice-Chairman William Jordan, Mrs. C., Dale C., Chairman William Schumacher and Commissioner Jacob Hilliker

Abnormal Water Usage

If you experience an abnormally large water bill here are a few things you can check. Make sure your faucets are not leaking or dripping. Place some food coloring in the tank of your toilet, if the water in bowl turns color without flushing, your toilet is not working properly. Before bed, write down the reading on your water meter and check it again in the morning. The number should not change if no water was used during the night. If you have any unexplained consumption, you may have a leak in your household plumbing. If you are unable to trouble shoot the unexplained water usage, you can call our office during normal hours and schedule an appointment with a technician. Typically, when a meter malfunctions that water usage amount will decrease and may not even register any usage. If your usage doubles from the same quarter the previous year, you may receive a call from our office. To speak to someone in our office you can call Monday through Friday from the hours of 7:30am until 12:30pm or from 1:30pm until 4:00pm. (989)684-3883

Waste Water Treatment Service Area

City of Essexville

Hampton Charter Township

Bangor Charter Township

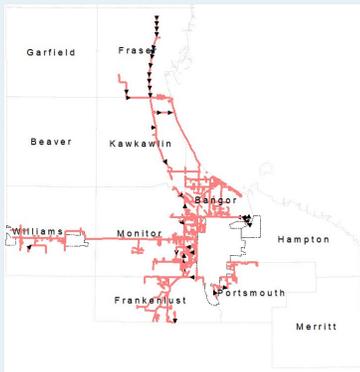
Monitor Township

Frankenlust Township

Williams Charter Township

Auburn

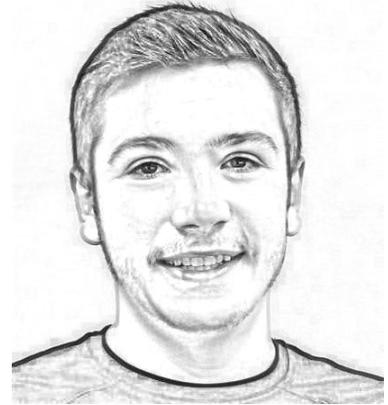
Kawkawlin Township



New Hires

Bay County Department of Water and Sewer has recently hired two employees.

The first is Jaden P., who started as a meter reader on July 19th. Jaden was a seasonal employee in 2020 and is a welcomed addition to the Distribution and Transmission Division.



Jaden—Meter Reader



The second is Nathan C., who started as a Collection systems Technician on August 9th. Nathan brings a passion to learn new things and is a welcomed addition to the Waster Water Division.



Nathan - Collection System Technician



Cross Connection—HydroCorp

Bay County Department of Water and Sewer has partnered with HydroCorp for our cross connection program. The cross connection program is a requirement of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy (EGLE) to maintain safe and healthy potable water. The program requires inspections of residents water supplies and will continue over the next 5-7 years (starting in 2021). Your participation is encouraged and appreciated. If you have any questions or concerns please contact us through our website (www.baycodws.org).

<https://hydrocorpinc.com/>



THE SAFE WATER AUTHORITY®

About the Department

Bay County Department of Water and Sewer services over 20,000 customers from Bay County and surrounding areas for water and/or sewer. The Bay Area Water Treatment Plant is responsible for producing more than 10 million gallons of potable water per day. The West Bay County Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant treats more than 6 million gallons of waste water per day.

The department has 61 employees led by the director Bill Bohlen and governed by the Bay County Road Commissioners..

- *William E. Schumacher - Chairman (2019 - 2024)*
- *William A. Jordan - Vice Chairman (2021 - 2026)*
- *Jacob D. Hilliker - Member (2021 - 2022)*



Bill Bohlen - Director

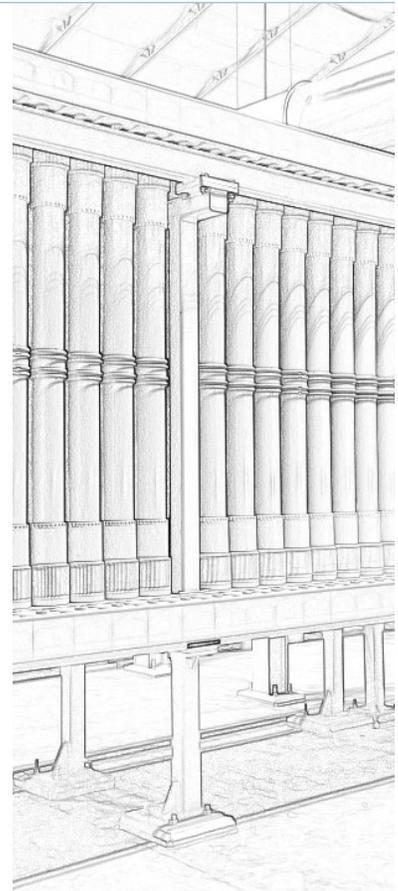
The Bay Area Water Treatment Plant Area

The Bay Area Water Treatment Plant serves the following communities.

- Bangor Charter Township
- City of Bay City
- Beaver Township
- City of Essexville
- Frankenlust Township
- Fraser Township
- Hampton Charter Township
- Kawkawlin Township
- Merrit Township
- Monitor Charter Township
- City of Pinconning
- Portsmouth Charter Township
- Williams Charter Township

Other Water Systems Supplied by the Bay Area Water Treatment Plant

- Bangor-Monitor Metropolitan District
- Beaver Road Area Water Association
- Kawkawlin Metropolitan Water District
- Pinconning Township-including adjacent portion of Standish Township (Arenac County)
- Wisner Township (Tuscola County)
- Gilford Township (Tuscola County) - supplied by Merritt and Wisner Township Water systems
- Akron Township (Tuscola County)



Bay County Department of Water and Sewer

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bay County Department of Water & Sewer is to provide industry leading quality services to our customer base. This service will be delivered with high regards to safety, environmental stewardship, fiduciary prudence, and uncompromising integrity. We are committed to our mission and take great honor in serving the community.

Sanitary Sewer Backups - Are you Covered?

After water goes down the drain, we don't give it a second thought. Usually this works out fine, but what about the relatively rare occasions when wastewater backs up into your home or business? These backups can cause damage that is difficult and expensive to repair and create health hazards to the people who must live and work in affected areas. Are you prepared to deal with a sewer backup?

Sewer backups can occur for a variety of reasons:

- Sewage or sump pumps can fail or lose power
- Laterals, the pipes that run from homes and business to the sanitary sewer main, can become plugged by tree roots or other debris
- The sanitary sewer main itself may become plugged or partially obstructed
- High volume flooding may limit or eliminate the ability of sanitary sewer mains to transport wastewater

In nearly all situations, home or business owners will be on the hook to deal with the aftermath of a sewer backup! Most people don't even realize, until it is too late, that their homeowner's policy doesn't cover sewer backups. If you have a finished basement, store valuables in your basement, or have expensive appliances like furnaces, hot water heaters, or freezers in your basement, you should check your homeowner's insurance to see if you're covered in case of a backup. Often, supplemental insurance can be obtained if your policy does not specifically cover sewer backups. This type of coverage will often include clean-up as well as the cost of replacing damaged items and appliances.

That's all for this time. In the next newsletter, we'll discuss what you can do to prevent sewer backups!

Bay County Department of Water and Sewer

3933 Patterson Rd
Bay City, MI 48706-1919

Phone: 989-684-3883
Fax: 989-684-5510
E-mail: helpdesk@baycodws.org

