

Spring
2017

ONTAP

A Quarterly Publication for Paducah Water Consumers

Fluoridation Observation

On January 25, 1945, Grand Rapids, Michigan made history by becoming the first city in the world to introduce fluoride into its water supply. This was done as part of a study of the effects of fluoride in reducing tooth decay, which was a significant problem nation-wide. In the U.S. at that time, approximately 80% of first graders averaged 14 cavities, and most adults over age 50 needed dentures. In fact, just before the start of World War II, the military required applicants to have a minimum of 6 teeth touching before they could serve. The rule had to be dropped because there weren't enough people who met the requirement!

Today, over 210 million people in our country receive fluoridated water

from public water utilities. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control: "Since 1945, hundreds of cities have started community water fluoridation and in 2012, nearly 75% of the United States served by community water systems had access to fluoridated water. Because of its contribution to the dramatic decline in tooth decay over the past 70 years, CDC named community water fluoridation as one of ten great public health achievements of the 20th century."

Sources: <https://www.awwa.org/publications/connections/connections-story/articleid/4435/no-cavities-thank-this-utility.aspx>; <https://www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/basics/>

TODAY,
fluoridation
prevents
at least
25%
OF
tooth decay
in children
& adults



Award-Winning WATER

Paducah Water recently received the Partnership for Safe Water Directors Award for 2016! This honor is presented to utilities that have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to delivering superior quality drinking water to the communities they serve. By rigorously reviewing our treatment practices and striving beyond regulatory requirements, PW is able to provide award-winning water to our customers! Drink up!



(from left) Cory Becker, Union President, Jared Merritt, Union Secretary/Treasurer, Bill Robertson, PW General Manager.

Union Signs New Contract

PW's Collective Bargaining Unit, AFSCME Local 3122, recently signed a three-year contract. Both parties agreed that negotiations went smoothly.

SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY

In 2013, PW's Capital Improvement Plan identified the need for additional elevated storage in the Massac/Hendron area. After weighing several options, our engineers began designing a tank that would not only meet the demands of the largest pressure zone in our distribution system, but would also adhere to stringent seismic design requirements due to our proximity to the New Madrid Fault zone. The new tank, located on Krebs Station Road, replaced two smaller elevated tanks that no longer operated efficiently. Construction began in Summer 2016 and is now complete. The tank will

provide increased reliability and greater storage volume to the area. Meeting the growing needs of our community...that's why **Paducah Water is the Clear, Clean Choice!**



Upcoming Improvement Projects:

Houser Road Water Main Extension Phase 2

Buckner Lane/Hansen Road Water Main Extension

Old U.S. Highway 45 Water Main Extension

WELCOME TO THE TEAM!



T.J. OLIVER



HUNTER VAUGHN

T.J. Oliver and Hunter Vaughn joined PW's Distribution Department as Laborers. Both began employment on February 20.

LOMS WINS LOCAL MATHCOUNTS® COMPETITION

In effort to promote **S.T.E.M.** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education in our region, Paducah Water proudly supports the Kentucky **MATHCOUNTS** Competition. **MATHCOUNTS** is a state-wide math enrichment program presented annually in cooperation with the Kentucky Society of Professional Engineers. The Kentucky Lake Chapter's **MATHCOUNTS** event was held on February 18 at West Kentucky Community and Technical College and was open to 7th and 8th grade students residing in Kentucky's 13 western-most counties.

Lone Oak Middle School repeated as champions in our region. The team from Heath Middle School took second place and will accompany the Lone Oak team to the state competition to be held at Western Kentucky University's Knically Center on March 24th and 25th. **Congratulations to all participants and winners!**



Commissioners Of Waterworks

W. Edward Barker, Chair
Roger Truitt, Vice Chair
Deborah Edmonds, Commissioner
Bill Shannon, Commissioner
Allan Rhodes, Ex Officio
Tom Clayton, Commissioner
Jim Wheeler, Commissioner

Questions?

You may contact any of the people listed below using the contact information to the right.
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