



# NEWSPLASH

News for Customers of the Erie Water Works

Fourth Quarter 2018

## Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association Annual Conference - Erie, PA

The Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association's (PMAA) mission is to assist municipal authorities in providing services that protect and enhance the environment and promote the economic vitality and general welfare of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens. The Association's authority membership consists of 724 water, sewer, solid waste, transportation and

of the destinations Erie has to offer. Some of the favorite stops included: the Bicentennial Tower, Presque Isle State Park, the Tom Ridge Environmental Center, ExpERIENCE Children's Museum, as well as many local restaurants, breweries, and wineries.

The Erie Water Works provided tours of the Chestnut Street Pump Station and the Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant to members on Sunday, September 9, 2018.

Formal opening ceremonies were held on Monday morning with a special welcome from Mayor Joe Schember. Local historian Dr. David Frew delivered the keynote address and shared stories about the rich history of Lake Erie and the War of 1812.

The three day conference was filled with educational sessions on subjects including preserving water quality, water storage tank maintenance, regionalization, and updates from the Department of Environmental Protection, just to name a few.

The conference concluded Tuesday evening with a "Taste of Erie" BBQ on the patio of the convention center followed by a



*Craig Palmer, Sr. Manager of Engineering Services for the Erie Water Works takes a group through the Richard S. Wasielewski Water Treatment Plant.*

beautiful fireworks display by Zambelli's while the band played "God Bless America" in honor of those that lost their lives on 9/11.

The organizers were so happy with the attendance by their members they've added Erie to their rotation of conference locations.

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*PMAA Deputy Director John Brosious presents Senator Scott Hutchinson (left) with a Distinguished Service Award.*

parking authorities from across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Erie Water Works has been a member for 42 years.

The Commonwealth is divided into ten regions. Region eight includes Crawford, Erie, Mercer, and Venango counties.

For the first time in 76 years the PMAA Annual Conference was held in Erie from September 9-11 at the Bayfront Convention Center. Nearly 1,000 people attended the three day conference. Attendees used their free time to explore many



*A conference attendee's daughter learns where Erie water comes from at the ExpERIENCE Children's Museum.*

## S&P Reaffirms EWW's "A" Credit Rating

On September 5, 2018 the Erie Water Works refinanced a portion of its 2006 bond issue as well as its entire 2008 bond issue. By refinancing, the Erie Water Works was able to take advantage of lower interest rates available in today's municipal bond market. These lower rates produced a debt service savings of more than \$2.5M in 2018. The savings will be put right back into water system improvements. This was possible because of the solid "A" credit score the Erie Water Works received from the bond rating agency Standard & Poor's (S&P). This credit score tells potential bond investors, that the Erie Water Works is a financially stable organization, and when insuring its bonds, the Erie Water Works was able to secure a very reasonable premium which added to the savings. All of these factors play a part in generating the \$2.5M savings EWW realized with this most recent bond refinancing.

By maintaining a good credit score, being vigilant at monitoring the bond market, and taking advantage of low interest rates, the Erie Water Works does its best to keep water rates as low as possible while providing very high quality water and first class service to all its customers.

## Gear Tower Project Complete

In early November 2017 crews from Alex Roofing, ROG's Inc., and Lakeshore Towing removed the Erie Water Works Gear Tower from Water Works Park at Presque Isle State Park to undergo a complete renovation at Donjon Shipbuilding.

Renovations are complete and the "lighthouse" was returned to Presque Isle State Park on Wednesday, September 12, 2018 in a new location making it more accessible to visitors.

The project was made possible through the efforts of several companies, Presque Isle Partnership, Presque Isle State Park and a very generous donation from the Dan and Sallie Shipley Charitable Fund.



Before and after pictures of the Gear Tower at Presque Isle State Park.

## It's time to prepare your home for winter!

When temperatures are consistently at or below 32°F pipes in your home may be vulnerable to freezing. Here are some preparation tips in advance of frigid weather.

- \* Eliminate sources of cold air near water lines by repairing windows, insulating walls, closing off crawl spaces and eliminating drafts near doors.
- \* Allow a small trickle of water to run overnight to keep pipes from freezing. The cost of the extra water is minimal compared to the cost to repair a broken pipe.
- \* Open cabinet doors to expose pipes to warmer room temperatures to help keep them from freezing.
- \* If your pipes freeze apply heat to the frozen pipe by warming the air around it. You can use a hair dryer, space heater or hot water.

If water is not restored and neighbors are experiencing the same problem it could be a water main break and customers should call the Erie Water Works 24-hour emergency number 814-870-8087.