

Johnsville Public Utility District

2023-24 Newsletter

Hello and welcome to the latest Johnsville Public Utility District's (JPUD) newsletter. As we come out of winter, the JPUD Board of Directors and staff have a lot in store for this upcoming year. With 5 years of hard work behind us, and many successful developments, **we will be replacing our 2 failing wooden water tanks with 2 larger steel tanks and updating our chlorination system this year which provides our town with safe drinking water.**

As you may know from previous years, this project has been our longest and largest in the JPUD history, requiring all of our resources, time and dedication just to get us to this point. With a lot of hard work, this necessary project is the result of the JPUD, local, state and federal governmental agencies working in cooperation to make this a reality. Fortunately for all of us, the project cost has been obtainable due to securing funds through varying governmental programs, which in and of itself, was no easy task. With a small District such as ours, it took many hands to make for an easier lift.

During construction of this large effort, the JPUD Board believes that all of our customers have expectations of uninterrupted water service. Consequently, we are trying to schedule potential shutoffs during non-peak periods. **Our priority over the course of construction will be to deliver safe quality water to each customer and to maintain our ability to provide water necessary for fire protection.** Both are essential for safety and occupancy in the town of Johnsville. There is always a potential for interruptions, but during construction water service could be interrupted due to unforeseen circumstances due to aging pipes and valves which are vulnerable to the impacts of new construction. Many unknown events could upset the frail stability of our water system.

Now it will be up to our contractor and YOU, the community, to see this through going forward. As summer sets in and the snow melts, you will be noticing the start of construction. However, this will take coordination, cooperation and patience from each and every one of us. As the project schedule solidifies we will be doing our best to communicate and facilitate the impacts so that all of us that rely on water to live and thrive in Johnsville will not be too inconvenienced. This will include but not be limited to heightened conservation of the Town's water, while we are dismantling and rebuilding each of our two tanks. Failing to do so, could lead to a shortfall and put us all in a very serious situation. While this will surely be inconvenient at times, it will be necessary for us to improve our overall storage and continue to supply water for years to come. While we will do everything in our power to maintain constant water delivery, we may experience some necessary water interruption(s) and possible traffic mitigation during the necessary preparation and construction.

Communication: The JPUD holds public meetings at the St. John's Church which are posted and noticed in Town, at the Church, at the Museum, and on our website

www.Johnsvillepud.org The board will be hosting "Town hall" style meetings in an effort to disperse information along with our regular board meetings. The public is encouraged to attend.

The first town hall meeting will be held on Saturday, May 18th, 2024 at 1:00 pm at Saint John's Church. In addition to these public meetings we will continue with mailings and public postings. The JPUD website will be one of the best sources for the historical background of this project and look to the homepage, "The Home Front" for critical updates during construction. <https://www.johnsvillepud.org/the-home-front>

Planning: The JPUD Board, Contractors and Engineers are currently developing a detailed project timeline. This timeline must take into consideration requirements such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) which includes a Bird/Wildlife survey that can affect the start dates due to several variables and possible mitigations. This important and mandatory survey will be the first pre-construction step and will begin shortly. Once complete, a clear construction plan will develop and a project timeline will be finalized. This information will be posted on the above website links.

Time Constraints: The projected tank construction "window" is May 2024 through September 2024. During construction, the District's goal is to keep the water flowing without interruption. However, any number of factors during construction could cause a water system shutdown for unknown periods of time. As a precaution for temporary water shutoffs, you may wish to consider purchasing a bottled water supply for emergency uses.

We ask during this time for you to limit as much water use as possible and plan accordingly. Residents, businesses and the State Park will be asked to be mindful of all water use including outside irrigation. We kindly request that you do not waste any water or leave any irrigation unattended. Over watering or unchecked leaks could put us at great risk of losing waterflow and damaging our pumping equipment. We as the District, will focus on giving you ample notice of any foreseeable impacts using all available means, including local residential postings, written communication, local meetings and postings on our JPUD website <https://www.johnsvillepud.org>

While the District will do its part communicating, we ask that you contact us directly with any updates in your contact information (email and phone number) so that we have easy access to contact you directly, should the need arise for immediate notification. The Board of Directors and General Manager welcomes any comments, questions and inquiries. As always your input and participation are encouraged. Please be patient during this process, we are all in this together!

Sincerely,

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