

# STRAIGHT FROM THE TAP

**Frederick Water  
Winter 2017**

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### ***BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS***

Frederick Water Board meetings are held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month, unless otherwise noted. ***Upcoming meeting dates:***

December 19<sup>th</sup>, January 16<sup>th</sup>, February 20<sup>th</sup>,

### **Winter is here**

Meters sometimes freeze during the winter when there is below freezing temperatures for more than two days in a row. When it gets really cold it is a good idea to let a trickle of water run through your faucet, especially for pipes that are on an exterior wall. The steady stream of water helps keep your meter (and your pipes) from freezing. If you think that your meter has frozen, ***please do not try to unfreeze it yourself.***

Call us at **(540) 868-1061 ext. 127** and we will thaw the meter at no charge to you.

*Happy Holidays*

### ***Town of Stephens City Lawsuit:***

In March of 2015, the Town of Stephens City stopped paying Frederick Water for water or wastewater services that Frederick Water provides to the town's residents. On August 28, 2015, the town then sued Frederick Water over its water and wastewater contracts in the Circuit Court of Frederick County.

The town's complaint requested money from Frederick Water for allegedly erroneous billing and alleged excess pumping from the town's quarries, as well as seeking a court order holding that Frederick Water no longer was authorized to pump water from the quarries in accordance with the town's water contract with Frederick Water. On Frederick Water's motion, the town's initial complaint was largely dismissed in the fall of 2015, including the town's claim that Frederick Water's right to pump water from the quarries had expired.

However, in January of 2016, the town filed an amended complaint. This filing reasserted the theory that the right to take water had expired and added the allegation that numerous agreements the town had entered into with Frederick Water are invalid because allegedly adopted without the requisite approvals by the Town Council and notice to the public. Frederick Water filed responsive pleadings, seeking dismissal of the town's amended *complaint* as well.

On July 27, 2017, the Circuit Court of Frederick County sustained Frederick Water's demurrer and dismissed most of the claims made in the town's amended complaint. Among the rejected claims was the town's argument that the agreements were invalid because allegedly adopted without observance of the requirements that generally apply to sales of certain property rights held by towns. The court agreed with Frederick Water that these requirements did not apply to the transfers between the town and Frederick Water, another political subdivision of the commonwealth. As before, the town's claim that Frederick Water's right to pump water from the quarries had expired was rejected by the court and dismissed. Per the court's scheduling order, the parties are presently briefing Frederick Water's second responsive pleading, which seeks dismissal of most of the remaining claims in the town's amended complaint based on the statute of limitations.

These court filings may be viewed at  
[www.frederickwater.com](http://www.frederickwater.com).

## CUSTOMER SERVICE NEWS ....

### Check out these free and easy ways to pay your bill!

**EFT** - Experience the convenience and cost savings of having your bill automatically deducted from your account! No more checks to write, late fees or interruption of service. Take advantage of this free payment method. The amount due will be automatically deducted from your checking account on the due date. You will continue to receive a copy of your bill for your records. The enrollment form is available on our website at [www.frederickwater.com](http://www.frederickwater.com). Just fill it out and send to us with a voided check. It's that easy!

**Frederick Water Online Customer Portal** – You can view your bill, see your consumption history, make a payment and more! Access your customer portal by going to [www.frederickwater.com](http://www.frederickwater.com) and clicking on 'Manage Your Account'. Account and Customer numbers are needed for access.

### Bank Bill Pay Option –

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** If you use your bank's bill pay option, please take a moment to check your settings to ensure the correct account and customer number is listed.

**Did you know?** - Your bank may take your payment out of your checking account before sending it to us. Your payment will not be applied to your account until we receive it which usually takes 2 to 10 days.

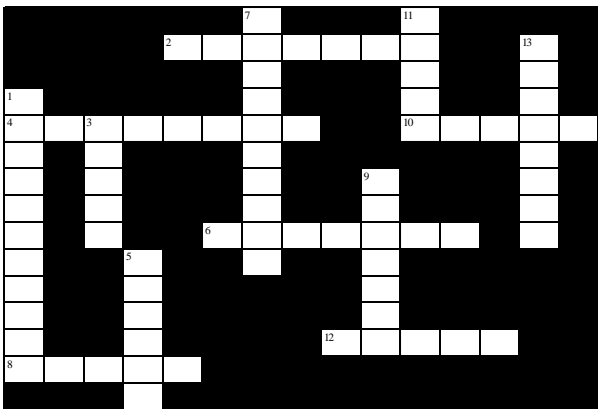
**Pay by phone at 1-877-318-7057** or online through the Paymentus portal.

**REMEMBER – FREDERICK WATER DOES NOT CHARGE A FEE TO MAKE A PAYMENT!**

## OPEQUON WATER SUPPLY PLAN (OWSP) ~ UPDATE~

The Opequon Water Supply Plan (OWSP) initiative continues to move forward. After the selection of a design/build team in June, Frederick Water Staff have worked closely with the team as they develop design drawings. 30% design drawings was presented to Frederick Water on October 12, 2017. The plans included infrastructure for a raw water intake from Opequon Creek, a raw water transmission pipeline and a new water treatment facility designed to meet or exceed drinking water regulations.

The OWSP will help to ensure a safe, reliable and sustainable supply of water to help meet the community's projected drinking water needs. Please visit our project website for additional information and updates as the project progresses: <https://frederickwater.com/development/opequon-water-supply-plan/>. We appreciate your interest and support as we work to complete this important water supply project.



### Down:

1. water beneath the earth's surface \_\_\_\_.
3. evaporation, transpiration, precipitation and infiltration make up the water \_\_\_\_.
5. deep underground water is typically \_\_\_\_ to the surface.
7. most groundwater is used for this.
9. water holding formation.
11. groundwater occurs in saturated soil \_\_\_\_\_. The water table.
13. marshy area

### Across:

2. groundwater storage is greater than present \_\_\_\_ water supplies.
4. \_\_\_\_ is the process by which groundwater gets replenished.
6. pesticides, road salt or motor oil can \_\_\_\_ groundwater.
8. like a stream
10. deep hole dug in the ground to provide a supply of water.
12. to consume or "eat water."

### Word Bank:

Surface	Below	Groundwater
Irrigation	Cycle	Pumped
Recharge	Drink	Wells
Pollute	River	Aquifer
Wetlands		

### Important numbers:

Administration – 540.868.1061 ext. 5

Customer Service – 540.868.1061 ext. 4

Maintenance – 540.868.1061 ext. 127

### After Hours/Emergencies

Please contact the Frederick County Sheriff's Department at 540-662-6162

## Mark your Calendars ....

Dec. 22nd closed at Noon, Dec. 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for Christmas Day.

Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 – closed New Year's Day

February 19<sup>th</sup> – closed Presidents' Day

