

Spring Newsletter



... from the best little town around

Greetings, Bolivar Residents! It's been a long hard winter, but thankfully warmer weather is finally upon us. We know we have several potholes all throughout town that we need to address.

Our plan is to wait until we have good weather and a ground temperature that is consistently above 70° before we apply hot mix asphalt patch. These weather dependent conditions should allow the patch to bond with the road more effectively. Most likely it will be late May or early June to allow the potholes to be repaired appropriately. Additionally, Council has approved the following roads for resurfacing:

- Strawberry Alley, from Tusc to Poplar
- Lovers Alley, from Tusc to Poplar
- Pleasant Alley, from Tusc to Poplar
- Eberly Alley (the entire length)
- Strawberry Alley, from Yant to Bolivar

Based on the cost associated with these paving projects, we have concluded we need to do more to extend the life of our streets and alleys. The primary culprit for many of our deteriorating streets comes from the wear and tear created by the garbage trucks. Therefore, we have begun exploring possible ways to reduce the number of streets and alleys the garbage trucks travel.

With spring, comes the return of composting. Please place your compost materials in easily liftable thick-walled containers. Do not place items in trash bags, and make sure no trash material is mixed in with the compost and that all limbs are shorter than 4ft. This is a complimentary service that the Village graciously provides to all residents, but if you have a truck and are physically capable of transporting your compost materials out to the township garage, the street department would appreciate you doing so.

Lastly, if there are any high school students who need community service hours, feel free to contact village hall. We have several fire hydrants that could use a coat of paint, flower beds that regularly need attention and fence lines that need weeded. Similarly, if you are looking for a summertime job that would primarily consist of riding a lawn mower all day, please give us a call. We are hiring seasonal help.

Best
Tim Lang

Also see Mayor's Water Letter, dated April 8, 2022, beginning on page 3



Proposed Alley Naming Project

Under Consideration

Our Street and Alley Committee Chairman, Mr. Tedd Finlayson, has proposed we name the two circled alleys that do not currently have names down at the county map office. Additionally, the committee has discussed renaming the circled portion of Johnson Alley NW. Mr. Finlayson recently educated me on how the portion of Johnson Alley that runs north to south was named for former Mayor Johnson. Mr. Finlayson does not wish to rename the north to south portion of the alley, since it runs past Mayor Johnson's former home and was named in his honor. However, Mr. Finlayson has proposed that we rename the portion that runs east to west to try to cut down on the confusion created by a Johnson Alley that runs both north to south and east to west.

We would like to hear your thoughts about the idea of naming the three circled streets. Please feel free to attend a committee meeting, or call down to the office and give us your feedback. Also, you are welcome to email Mr. Ted Finlayson or myself with any suggested names.



Village of Bolivar

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April 8, 2022

Dear Resident,

The Village of Bolivar has changed the way we are billing for water. We have adopted a combination of a monthly minimum charge and a metered service charge for our water rate structure. The minimum charge is a base rate that covers the costs of maintaining the existing infrastructure and repaying loans and bonds used to build or upgrade infrastructure. The metered service-charges are the price the customer pays per volume of water used, which reflect the costs of providing water, such as costs for chemical treatment to provide safe water and energy to move and deliver water. The minimum monthly charge has been set at \$43.00 a month. This minimum charge includes 2,000 gallons of water, however an additional \$5.75 will be charged for every 1,000 gallons of water used over and above 2,000 gallons covered in the minimum monthly charge.

We understand that some of our residents are on a fixed income and these increases may become a financial burden. For that reason, we have established a homestead minimum monthly charge of \$38.00 a month. This homestead rate will encompass the first 2,000 gallons of water used per month, however the additional \$5.75 will be charged for every 1,000 gallons of water used over and above 2,000 gallons covered in the homestead monthly charge.

What is the Homestead Exemption? The homestead exemption provides a reduction in property taxes to qualified senior or disabled citizens, or a surviving spouse, on the dwelling that is that individual's principal place of residence and up to one acre of land of which an eligible individual is an owner. In addition to the above requirements, there is a statewide income threshold for Homestead Exemption of \$34,600.

To qualify for the homestead base rate, a resident must show proof that they have been granted Homestead Exemption by the Tuscarawas County Auditor's Office.

The Village of Bolivar's new metered water rates went into effect on March 1st 2022. The enclosed bill is the first metered water bill issued since the water meters were installed last year. We waited to collect data on how much water was being used by every household so we could determine what our minimum monthly charge and metered service charge needed to be to cover the cost associated with the water system.

After collecting this data, we contracted with the Rural Community Assistance Program (RCAP) to perform a rate study. They analyzed the data we provided them and recommended we adopt the new rate table. These rate increases were necessary for a number of reasons:

- Many of the water transmission lines throughout the village have exceeded their useful lifespan and need replacement.
- The village's previous rates were so low that it hindered the village from being able to secure grant funding and low interest loans from agencies that offer financial assistance to upgrade and improve public water systems.
- The lack of metered water billing prevented us from being able to qualify for grant funding and low interest loans for the necessary upgrades to our water system.
- We took out a loan to cover the cost of the water meter installation project, and the new rates will help us cover the cost associated with this loan.
- The village will start buying water from the Tuscarawas County Metropolitan Water & Sewer in 2023 to come into compliance with the EPA's administrative compliance order.

For all of these reasons, council voted to approve the above listed minimum charge of \$43.00 a month and additional \$5.75 per every 1,000 gallons of water used over and above the minimum monthly charge.

Our goal is to provide and maintain a first-class water system for our residents and businesses. For that reason, the Village of Bolivar will reassess the metered water rate table in one year and contract with RCAP once again to perform another rate study. This will allow us to both reassess the village's goals and priorities for the water system, as well as reevaluate whether any adjustments need to be made to the metered rate after an additional year's worth of data has been collected.

As always, feel free to call or stop down to the office and speak to someone about any additional question we have not yet answered.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Lang', written in a cursive style.

Tim Lang