

2020



# WATERLINES

A Bangor Water Publication

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## Coronavirus and Your Water



It's an uncertain time. One certainty is that your water is safe.

Bangor Water draws its water from

Floods Pond, among the most protected lakes in the state, and our disinfection process is very effective in killing bacteria and viruses.

Our water treatment operators are isolated due to the location of the plant, and we have remote operating capability for the water treatment system.

Our mission as always is to provide a critical resource for domestic and fire-fighting purposes.

## Commitment to Water System Gets Noticed

*As stewards of your public water system, Bangor Water was honored to receive two awards recently (see page 3)*

### NEWWA Utility of the Year Award

In September, New England Water Works Association named Bangor Water the "2019 Utility of the Year" in the medium-size category.

The award recognized the significant improvements to the water system infrastructure as we move toward our goal of replacing two miles of pipe each year to achieve a complete system renewal every 100 years. Some 42 of nearly 200 miles of pipe in six communities has been in the ground for more than a century.

Also recognized were the ongoing upgrades to the treatment facilities, implementation of paperless technology to mapping and meter reading, and professional development of our 34 employees.



Trustees Palmer, Hamilton, Fournier, and General Manager Moriarty accept NEWWA award

## Rate Change Postponed to Provide Customer Relief

In light of recent developments, Bangor Water's Board has opted to postpone the planned water rate change that was slated to take effect in July. The Trustees and staff recognized that any change during this time of uncertainty was best left until later this year or until 2021.

We will revisit our 2020 budget including projects in cooperation with others such as the City of Bangor. We will also review the loss of revenue resulting from the COVID 19 shutdowns before deciding how to proceed.

Although the July rate increase would have been minimal for many (three cents a day for our minimum residential user), it seemed in the best interest of our customers to delay any changes.

Part of our job is to balance the needs of an aging water system against sustainable rates, and meeting both objectives continues to be a challenge.

## Infrastructure Accomplishments for 2019

### Pipe Improvements

#### Union Street and 14th Street:

- Replaced 4,250 feet of 1910-1912 water lines
- Cost: \$2,334,794

#### Main Street (Dutton to City line):

- Replace 3600' of 6-inch line
- In conjunction with City sewer project ahead of paving
- Required night work, traffic control
- Cost to date: \$2,053,599

#### Ohio Street (MDOT bridge project):

- Current water main is buried under I-95; new line will be suspended from bridge
- Project prep included installation of new valves and abutment work
- Cost to date: \$74,723



While our priorities focus on old or leaky infrastructure, Bangor Water coordinates work with the City of Bangor and MDOT whenever possible to reduce costs and inconvenience to the public.

### Facility Improvements

#### Thomas Hill Standpipe Decking:

- Removed and replaced old walking pads and membrane deck. Retrofit drains and installed flashing.
- Cost: \$74,395

#### Butler Treatment Plant Upgrade:

- Phase II of upgrade to 25-year-old plant, including switch to liquid oxygen for more efficient production of ozone.
- Piping in pit brought above ground to allow easier isolation of equipment as needed.
- Fiber optic line completed for upgraded communications
- Estimated total project cost: \$5,906,125

## Projects on the Drawing Board for 2020

### Pipe Improvements

#### State Street (Hancock to Howard Streets):

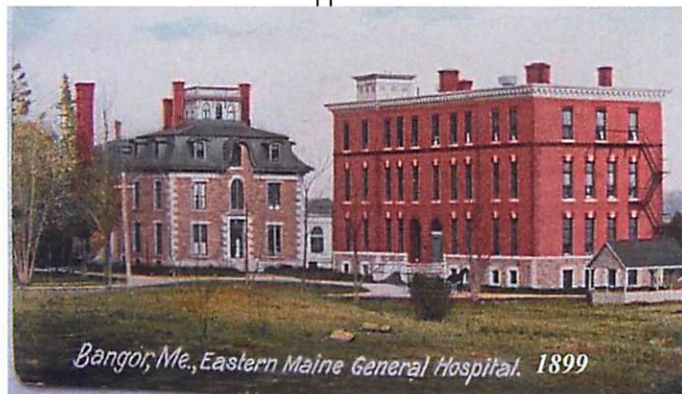
- Replace one of our oldest (c. 1876) water lines, in conjunction with City of Bangor sewer work—prior to paving planned for 2021.
- Critical infrastructure supplies a major health-care provider.
- Estimated Bangor Water cost: \$1,000,000.

#### Parker Street (between Third and Fifth streets):

- Service lines still connected to a 1925 water main will be moved to an adjacent water line installed in 1982.
- Work is in advance of City sewer work and planned paving.
- Estimated cost: \$100,000

#### Ohio Street bridge:

- Water line installation under newly constructed bridge



*Bangor, Me., Eastern Maine General Hospital. 1899*

### Facility Improvements

#### Butler Treatment Plant Electric Line Upgrade:

- Upgrade a portion of the original (c. 1957) five-mile three-phase private electrical line from Route 9 into our pumping and treatment facilities at Floods Pond
- Estimated cost \$1,000,000

#### Replacement plan for standpipes and pump station:

- Detailed design work for replacing BIA standpipe and pump station (76 years old) and Hammond Street Standpipe (57 years old).
- Replace 2 standpipes with 1 standpipe and pump station in new locations

#### Solar energy generation:

- Determine location for solar panels
- Execute power purchase agreement
- Annual electric costs: \$250,000
- Estimated solar income: \$80,000 - \$100,000 annually

## Bangor Historical Society Recognizes Bangor Water

In February, we received the “Founding Fathers Preservation and Stewardship Award” from the Bangor Historical Society.

The award honors those who have “contributed significantly to the conservation and documentation of Bangor’s history,” and Bangor Water was recognized for its commitment to preserving the 120-year-old Thomas Hill Standpipe.

### Thomas Hill Standpipe Tours

May tour cancelled

July 22 (Wed) 4—8 p.m.

October 7 (Wed) 3—6 p.m.

December 16 (Wed) 1—4 p.m.

Tours may be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions



## Topics You May Have Heard About . . . . .



### Bringing Community Partners Together to Prepare for a Water Emergency

You never know what might happen on any given day. In January, Bangor Water participated in a table top exercise simulating a drinking water emergency.

More than 70 attendees participated from 37 different agencies including the hospitals, our neighboring water utilities, our largest water users, the City of Bangor, and various State agencies.

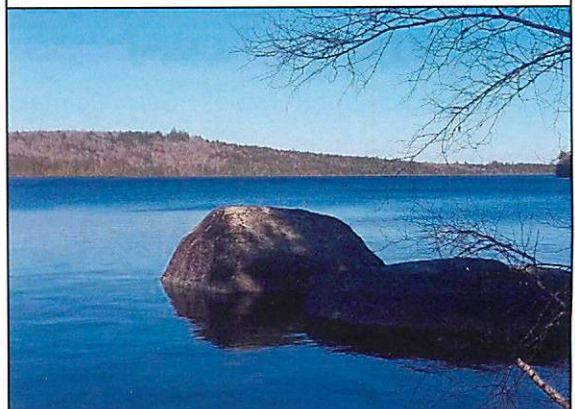
It was a valuable learning experience for our staff and a great networking opportunity with our community partners. Maine Rural Water Association facilitated the event.

### No PFAS Found Here

The world is full of acronyms—SUV, NFL, LOL, FBI—but in the world of water, the acronym people are talking about today is PFAS.

Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been used since the 1950’s—generally related to the industrial use of chemicals.

Thanks to years of protecting our watershed, PFAS have never been found in our drinking water. Due to the isolated nature of Floods Pond and the restricted activities allowed, sources of PFAS have never existed in or around the lake.





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### Bangor Water



PO Box 1129  
Bangor, ME 04402

## Want to know what Larry the Leak Lion is doing today?



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Like us...



### Board of Trustees

Ralph Foss   John Hwalek   Gerry Palmer  
Patty Hamilton   Michael Timpson  
Dan Wellington   Robert Sypitkowski

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 3:45 p.m.  
at the District office: 614 State Street Bangor

During COVID-19 restrictions, join us remotely.  
See our meeting notice each month for details.



### Current Minimum Bill

75 gallons of water a day  
48¢ per day or  
\$14.75 per month

### Current Average Residential Bill

150 gallons of water per day  
76¢ per day or  
\$22.63 per month

Your water use is billed in hundred cubic feet.  
There are 748 gallons per 1 hundred cubic foot.