



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY**

**March 2017**

The Onondaga County Water Authority is pleased to provide its customers and consumers with the Authority's ***Annual Water Supply Statement and Consumer Confidence Report*** for the year ending December 31, 2016. Throughout this report, readers will find useful information specifically related to OCWA, as well as information related to water in general. In addition to mailing a notice to all customers of record announcing the availability of the report, the Authority continues its practice of providing copies of the report to local libraries. OCWA also advertises the availability of the report in local print media.

OCWA's ongoing capital improvement program continued throughout 2016 with several major projects being completed. During the year the old steel Eagleview water storage tank in Manlius was replaced with a larger, lower maintenance concrete tank. The outdated Sherwood pump station in Camillus was replaced with a more energy efficient facility. The East Hill pump station, serving Onondaga Hill, had its pumps replaced. Additionally, two major projects designed to protect OCWA's Otisco Lake transmission main from erosion were completed adjacent to Nine Mile Creek in Marcellus.

OCWA's engineering staff successfully completed and submitted an application to the NYS Health Department for funding that will allow OCWA to improve the Marcellus water treatment plant fluoride delivery system. Other capital improvement projects included the ongoing replacement of 19,255 feet of aging water mains, 120 isolation valves, and the replacement of 101 hydrants throughout the system. OCWA also started work on the replacement of the water main on Milton Avenue and Bridge Street, in the Village of Solvay and the Town of Geddes, as part of the large coordinated community streetscape project.

In September of 2016 it was announced that the operations of the Onondaga County Metropolitan Water Board's water facilities would be transferred to OCWA effective January 1, 2017. The consolidation of the two entities resulted in OCWA being responsible for water operations formerly split between the two agencies. OCWA now handles the treatment and delivery of both Otisco Lake and Lake Ontario water sources. Along with treatment responsibilities, OCWA now manages all water transmission and storage for all retail and wholesale water delivery throughout the Authority's five-county Central New York system. The OCWA and MWB staffs worked diligently during the final four months of the year addressing both regulatory and legal issues involved with the consolidation. As a result of their efforts, the merger was completed and the joint system was in place on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Throughout 2017 OCWA will be working to streamline operations of the two entities into one entity with an eye on producing monetary savings that will help fund future improvement projects and go toward keeping future rate increases more reasonable for all customers.

Looking ahead, for 2017, OCWA will continue its annual capital improvement program, which now will include major upgrades to the Lake Ontario pumping and distribution facilities. Other planned projects include the yearly rehabilitation of several distribution storage facilities, ongoing water main replacement projects plus continuing valve and hydrant replacements. One major initiative, starting in 2017, will be the planning for major improvements to the Lake Ontario water treatment facility which was originally placed in service in the 1960's.

To learn more about the OCWA water system and water supply, you are urged to read the information included in this report. Readers that have questions regarding the report or require additional information can contact OCWA's Water Quality Manager, Bob Rusyn by calling 315-455-7061, extension 3605.

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