

MEWS NEWS

APRIL-JUNE 2012

"Keeping our energy focused on you!"

Is bottled water really better than tap water?



Water has always been essential to our body's system and survival. Although people used to rely mostly on tap water to fill their daily drinking needs, in the past 20 years consumers have begun to shy away from the tap to purchase bottled water. Bottled water companies have profited greatly by promising a purer and more healthy product than the water you get from your tap.

In 2003, Americans alone spent more than \$7 billion on bottled water at an average cost of more than \$1 a bottle.

Is bottled water worth the expense? Do consumers *truly* receive a better water product for their money? We did some research to find out and the answers may surprise you.

Recently, there have been allegations against a big-name cola industry and its brand-name bottled water. These allegations have highlighted one of the biggest misconceptions about what kind of water is actually in the bottles you may purchase. This company advertises its water as "pure, still water," and is now being investigated for "misleading" its consumers. Rather than deriving its water from natural springs, this company had actually been filling its bottles with purified tap water! Unfortunately, this company was not alone; the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) published results of a four-year study in which researchers found that, "An estimated 25% or more of bottled water is really just tap water in a bottle-sometimes further treated, sometimes not." (<http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp>)

In one case, the advertised "pure, glacier water" was found to be taken from a municipal water supply while another brand of "spring water" was pumped from a water source that was next to a hazardous waste dumping site!

Bottled water is defined as "food" under federal regulations, so it is under the authority of the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), while tap water is regulated under the much stricter standards of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The NRDC study found that 18 of the 103 bottles of water tested contained, "more bacteria than allowed under microbiological-purity guidelines." Furthermore, about one-fifth of the brands tested positive for the presence of synthetic chemicals like phthalate, a harmful chemical that seeps into the water from its plastic container. Although there are regulatory standards limiting phthalates in tap water, there are no legal limits for phthalates in bottled water. **Tap water in the United States, when provided by a municipality, like MEWS, is one of the most highly-monitored and safest supplies in the world!**

The effects of the plastic bottles on the environment is also hard to ignore. In 2005, 2 million tons of plastic bottles ended up clogging landfills.

Using a washable, reusable bottle to fill from the tap for less than a penny per gallon makes more environmental and economical sense than purchasing water from a store for more than \$1.00 per 15 oz bottle. Regulatory guidelines also make tap water the healthier choice. And, don't forget tap water is delivered right to your home! For more information, please visit: www.nrdc.org and www.allaboutwater.org.

Golub, Catherine. (2001). Liquid assets: Is bottled water really better than what's on tap? *Environmental Nutrition*, 24 (9).

Potera, Carol. (2002). The price of bottled water. *Environmental Health Perspectives*, 110 (2). Shermer, Michael. (2003). Bottled twaddle. *Scientific American*, 289 (1).

<http://www.nrdc.org/water/drinking/qbw.asp>

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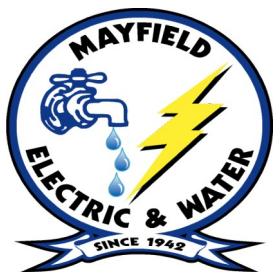
AMI Metering Keeps Rates Low

Getting To Know Us: Zachary Weeks

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FYI: Free CFL Recycling



**Mayfield Electric
& Water Systems**

Contacts:

270-247-4661

www.mayfieldews.com

**301 E Broadway
Mayfield, KY 42066**

**OFFICE HOURS:
Monday thru Friday
7:00 AM to 4:30 PM**

BOARD MEMBERS

Wesley K. Greer
Chairperson

Chris Kendrick
Vice Chairperson

Robert Barclay
Secretary-Treasurer

Nancy Barger
Member

Kathy O'Nan
Member

Sam Boyd Neely, Jr.
Attorney

The electric plant board is made up of progressive community leaders and directs the management of MEWS. The plant board consists of 5 members appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

In The Community: **MES Health Fair**



MEWS Customer Service and Marketing Representative, Mary Beth Paschall, speaks to Mrs. Jamie Dunn's 4th grade class about electrical safety.

Mayfield Electric & Water Systems recently traveled to Mayfield Elementary School for the school's Health Fair. Many different businesses were represented to teach the children about things like healthy eating, first aide, healthy life style choices and safety. MEWS was invited to talk to the students about the need for electrical awareness and safety. "Every child should know how to use electricity safely," said Customer Service & Marketing Manager, Jeanna Elliott. "Teaching young children about the potential dangers of electricity can greatly impact the decisions they make in regards to how they use it."

Celebrate the Essential **National Drinking Water Week 2012**

A safe, reliable water supply is critical to the success of any community. It creates jobs, attracts industry and investment, and provides for the health and welfare of citizens in many ways, ranging from disease prevention to fire suppression.

We often take our water supply for granted until it is threatened, either by drought, water main breaks, or some other event.

Mayfield Electric & Water Systems and the American Water Works Association are working together to celebrate
National Drinking Water Week 2012.

Throughout the week of May 7-11, 2012, MEWS will have FREE water-related give-a-ways, raffles and drawings; so, come in and help us celebrate clean, reliable and affordable drinking water!

"Mayfield Electric & Water Systems wants to bring awareness to the vital role that water plays in our daily lives while also showing our appreciation to all our customers," said MEWS' Water & Wastewater Manager, Kevin Leonard.

AMI Meters Help Keep Rates Low



As you may already know, Mayfield Electric and Water Systems has installed Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) meters for every MEWS customer. These new meters have many advantages designed specifically for the benefit of our consumers. These meters remotely send readings to our office every 15 minutes, can detect leaks and high usage, allow access to consumption-monitoring through www.myusage.com, and give us the ability to detect electricity theft immediately. When the seal is broken and the meter is removed from the base, a tamper transmission is sent to our meter technicians.

Detection of electricity theft is important for our customers because it plays a part in determining your rates. MEWS has to pay TVA (our electricity provider) for all the electricity that is consumed in our service area. Electricity theft forces MEWS to pay for electricity with no reimbursement. The immediate detection of theft allows MEWS to locate and isolate the

problem and limit the amount of electricity consumed, keeping the amount of stolen electricity to a minimum and resulting in the lowest possible rates for our consumers.

Mayfield Electric and Water Systems strives to be a leader in innovation, providing our customers with every opportunity to lower their consumption and save money, while helping keep our rates some of the lowest in the nation.

If a person is caught stealing electricity, they will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. Section KRS 514.060 of the Kentucky code permits up to a \$500 fine and five years imprisonment for anyone tampering with a meter, breaking the seal, or attaching any wire or other device which would permit the flow of unmetered or unauthorized electricity to any premises. You can obtain a copy of section KRS 514.060 from our office.

Getting to know us: Zachary Weaks

In January, Mayfield Electric & Water Systems hired two new pipefitters for our water department: Zachary Weaks was one of them. Zac worked part-time in the MEWS water department for 2 years prior to being hired full-time.

Zac recently married his wife Lindsay, who is a teacher. The two reside near Farmington and attend Farmington Baptist Church. In his spare time, Zac likes to hunt and fish.



Employee Service Anniversaries April, May & June

KEVIN McCORMACK	15
BELVA WILKERSON	11
EDDIE FEAGIN	10
TODD THURSTON	8
RUSS GILLS	5
JASON TUBBS	4
RYAN YANCEY	2

**Report Power Outages,
Water, or Sewer Problems to:**

270-247-4661

After hours call:

270-247-3531



Don't forget to
follow us on twitter
for the latest
MEWS updates!

@MEWSPublic

OFFICE CLOSINGS:

Good Friday

April 06, 2012

Memorial Day

May 28, 2012



FYI:

Mayfield Electric & Water Systems encourages the use of CFL bulbs, but wants to remind our customers that CFLs contain small traces of mercury and should not be disposed of in your regular garbage. Bring in your expired bulb and we will recycle it for FREE!

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U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
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ZIP CODE 42066

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