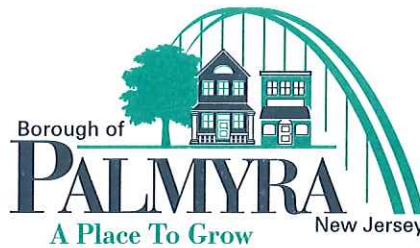


Karen A. Scheffler, Esq.
Mayor
Borough Council
Carol Riener
President
Michele Dobbs
Robert Bostock
Howard W. Norcross
Michelle Arnold
Adam Nowicki
Emily Kane
Student Representative



John J. Gural
Borough Administrator
Barbara Sheipe
Municipal Clerk
Donna Condo
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September 12, 2014

Re: Sewer Bills
\$20 per year discount for Seniors
No increase for other residential customers

Dear Residents & Property Owners,

You may be aware that Borough Council, for some time now, had been seriously considering revising the sewer fees that we charge our residential, commercial and industrial customers, to a system based on water usage instead of the flat rate we've been charging customers for many years.

We thought that a billing system based on water usage, rather than a flat fee, would be more fair for our residents – especially so for residents who use less water; after all, less water used means less wastewater down the drain and on its way to the sewer plant for treatment!

In particular, we were concerned about our senior citizens, as we recognized that many of our seniors use less water than many other residents¹, and therefore have less of an impact on our sewer plant, especially when compared to larger families with a number of school age children.

While attempting to develop this new billing system however, we came to realize that a full 25% of our residential customers do not have an **individual** water meter at their property. Residents of the Harbour and Willow Shores for instance only have one water meter for the entire building making it impossible to identify usage by individual customers! Given this irreconcilable set of circumstances of not being able to identify the exact water usage for every residential customer, we were forced to forego this ambitious, well-intentioned effort.²

However, just because we couldn't develop a system based on water usage, we did not want to lose the opportunity to address this inequity faced by our senior citizens.

Therefore, I am very happy to report that Borough Council adopted an amendment to our existing Ordinance authorizing a \$20 per year discount (\$10 per twice a year billing) for every senior citizen in Palmyra provided they were 65 years old on January 1st of the billing year. In other words, if you were 65 years old on or before January 1, 2014, you are automatically eligible for the discount. The discount applies however, to your primary residence only.

For all other residential customers your bi-annual sewer bill will remain the same at \$175.00 or \$350 per year, which is amongst the lowest rate in Burlington County!

Back to our seniors; our Tax Office has worked overtime in order to identify every eligible senior in our community and has automatically applied the discount to your bill (under CURRENT CHARGES DETAIL see SENIOR and 10.00-). In the event however, that we missed you simply complete the enclosed application, provide proof of age, and return it to Borough Hall (or simply stop by!) and upon acceptance you'll immediately become eligible for the discount. For seniors that already qualify for the annual \$30 senior deduction (\$15 per billing), you will note both deductions appear as SENIOR PLUS at 25.00-.

We trust this new policy will meet with your satisfaction but if you have any questions please call our Tax Office at (856) 829-6100. More information is also available on our website at <http://boroughofpalmyra.com/sewer-fees>.

As always, you may also call or email me as well at (856) 829-6100 ext. 126 or kscheffler@boroughofpalmyra.com. Thank you very much and please enjoy this autumn weather!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen A. Scheffler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Karen A. Scheffler
Mayor, Borough of Palmyra

¹ According to water billing information provided by New Jersey American Water Company.

² Water usage-based sewer billing was adopted for Commercial and Industrial properties.