



**Contact:**

Dean Miller, Executive Director  
Reading Area Water Authority  
1801 Kutztown Rd., Reading, Pa. 19604  
Phone: 610.406.6300  
Email: [Dean.Miller@readingareawater.com](mailto:Dean.Miller@readingareawater.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Reading Area Water Authority Celebrating National Drinking Water Week May 3-9, 2015**

Reading, Pa., April 29, 2015 – From Sunday, May 3, 2015 through Saturday, May 9, 2015, [Reading Area Water Authority](http://www.readingareawater.com) will celebrate National Drinking Water Week with its community partners and invites the Greater Reading community to participate in this year’s theme, “What do you know about H<sub>2</sub>O?”

“It seems like a simple question but there is so much that happens behind the scenes to make our water safe to drink... and even more done for high quality water that contributes to healthy lifestyles in our community,” said Dean Miller, executive director, Reading Area Water Authority.



The Water Authority participates in the National Drinking Water Week, which the American Water Works Association ([AWWA](http://www.awwa.org)) began over 35 years ago to give its members a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

Community outreach and education are big components of maintaining safe, affordable drinking water. The staff of the Water Authority holds events throughout the week to help educate residents and businesses so they can informed to make better decisions, learn how their actions impact the environment (positively and negatively), and get involved.

“Our employees look forward to volunteering for these events each year. It’s a good time to connect with the community, educate our youth, and work together to make a difference for our quality of life,” said Executive Director Dean Miller, Reading Area Water Authority, Reading, Pa.

In addition to the Water Authority’s highlighted activities of the week below, newsworthy announcements will be made throughout the week.

### **Sunday, May 3, 2015 - Lake Ontelaunee Cleanup & Mayor's Proclamation**

**Noon** - The Water Authority will commence its annual Lake Ontelaunee Cleanup with staff members, their families and volunteers to clean the area surrounding the lake to protect the area's source water. They will meet at the Dam Breast parking lot. More volunteers are welcome.

The Lake Ontelaunee Cleanup will provide Source Water Protection by preserving the source of our drinking water from contaminants that can enter the lake and pollute the waters. The more we can do to prevent water pollution, the better it is for Improving public health and safety, and minimizing the cost of water treatment to produce safe and clean drinking water.

**1:30 p.m.** - **Mayor's Proclamation** will be held at the breast of the dam for the official kick off National Drinking Water Week for Greater Reading. This proclamation comes on the heels of the City of Reading and Water Authority's recent announcement of participating in a nationwide [water conservation challenge](#).

### **Tuesday, May 5, 2015 and Wednesday, May 6, 2015– Events with Olivet Boys & Girls Club**

Throughout the beginning of the week, the Water Authority has fun water games and educational activities planned for a number of locations of the Olivet Boys & Girls Club to help children understand how they can play a part in conservation and environmental preservation.

### **Friday, May 8, 2015 - Tree Planting**

Olivet Boys & Girls Club from Clinton Street Location will be joining the Water Authority team to plant trees at Lake Ontelaunee fields which will beautify and provide a means for improving the watershed and water quality in this conservation area.

According to the Water Authority, they have 80+ jobs dedicated to maintaining in our water system's capital resources water filtration, distribution, collection and storage, which results in providing reliable service. Most customers know that when they turn the faucet, they can depend on clean drinking water.

The conservation-related events throughout National Drinking Water Week help them gain a better perspective on how to incorporate best practices into everyday life.

A number of Berks County organizations have coordinated a week of planned activities for [National Drinking Water Week](#), including the Berks County Conservation District's [Berks County Envirothon](#) at Nolde Forest Environmental Education Center, Cumru Township, Pa., on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. Students compete for the opportunity to go on to the PA Envirothon and the Canon Envirothon. They can win scholarships and prizes, with the help of sponsors including the Reading Area Water Authority.

To provide easy access to information on daily activities, they also will be posted on the Water Authority's social media pages including Twitter, Facebook, Google+, YouTube and Instagram. For more information, call 610.406.6300 or visit [www.readingareawater.com](http://www.readingareawater.com).

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### **About Reading Area Water Authority**

Celebrating 20 years of service, Reading Area Water Authority is a non-profit organization that operates and maintains the water system for the City of Reading, North Heidelberg, Cumru and Kenhorst townships, and portions of Bern and Bethel townships. The Water Authority employs approximately 80 Reading residents who take pride in making water safe for the homes and businesses – both on and off business hours.

The water supply for the City of Reading and North Heidelberg is obtained mainly from Lake Ontelaunee, which was constructed in 1926. Located about eight miles north of the City of Reading, Lake Ontelaunee has a water surface area of 1,082 acres and a capacity of 3.88 billion gallons.

Today, it is continually recognized for outstanding protection of source water and purity with prestigious national awards. Its roots dating back to 1821 when it was the first public supply of water delivered in Reading by the Reading Water Company. For more information about good water, good jobs and good neighbors, please call 610.406.6300 or visit [www.readingareawater.com](http://www.readingareawater.com).

### **About National Drinking Water Week**

For more than 35 years the American Water Works Association (AWWA) and its members have celebrated Drinking Water Week – a unique opportunity for both water professionals and the communities they serve to join together in recognizing the vital role water plays in our daily lives. The National Drinking Water Alliance was formed from 15 nonprofit educational, professional and public interest organizations in 1988. The Alliance dedicated itself to public awareness and involvement in public and private drinking water issues and continued its work to organize a major annual educational campaign built around Drinking Water Week.