

IMPORTANT MESSAGE: COVID-19 RATEPAYER RELIEF MEASURES

Certain measures are in place providing relief to ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Please review this message in its entirety. For more information, please go to our website at lakehurst-nj.gov or contact rjames@lakehurst-nj.gov or call 732-657-4141 ext. 103>.

SERVICE SHUTOFF MORATORIUM

BE ADVISED that Executive Order 229 currently prohibits a local government from shutting off water or electric service to a residential customer, or to accounts primarily serving residential customers, due to nonpayment of water, sewer, or electric charges unless the disconnection is to prevent or ameliorate a risk to public health or safety. **This shutoff moratorium remains in effect until January 1, 2022.**

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY AND LIEN ENFORCEMENT MORATORIUM

BE ADVISED that, **until January 1, 2022**, Executive Order 229 places a moratorium on local governments enforcing late payment charges and penalties on water or electric accounts or referring a delinquent water or electric payment to tax sale. **On or after January 1, 2022**, charges and penalties may be imposed for delinquent payments, and any payments remaining delinquent may be referred to a tax lien sale held by the municipal tax collector.

BILL ASSISTANCE AND ARREARAGE FORGIVENESS PROGRAMS

The New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) is currently developing a Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP). This program is designed to assist water and sewer customers facing economic hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information will be provided once the program goes live.

OPPORTUNITY TO REPAY ARREARAGES IN INSTALLMENTS

BE ADVISED that residents experiencing economic hardship during COVID-19 and who are behind on their water/sewer payments may be eligible to enter into an agreement whereby the resident agrees to pay their arrearages in installments over a period of time. As part of the agreement, the resident must keep up to date on all current charges. For more information on repaying arrearages in installments, rjames@lakehurst-nj.gov or call 732-657-4141 Ext. 103.

***Borough of Lakehurst
Deferred Payment Arrangement***

The Borough of Lakehurst is required to offer those experiencing COVID-19 related negative economic impacts the opportunity to enter into a deferred payment agreement (i.e. installment plan) subject to law. Ratepayers experiencing economic hardship during COVID-19 may be eligible to enter into a deferred payment agreement toward arrearages. Please contact Borough Hall at 732-657-4141 Ext. 103 to obtain information on deferred payment eligibility and conditions. Deferred payment agreements offered by the Borough of Lakehurst complies with the requirements of N.J.S.A. 54:5-19. Please note that, if a ratepayer is already party to a deferred payment agreement on a particular parcel of property, the borough cannot offer the delinquent ratepayer another agreement for the same parcel. The borough must adopt a resolution authorizing an agreement requiring the total sum of delinquent payments, plus any interest and penalties, to be paid in equal monthly installments, the amounts of which shall be large enough to satisfy in full the total sum of delinquent payments plus any interest and penalties. The length of the agreement shall not exceed five years in duration. The agreement shall be conditioned upon timely payment of the specified installments and of all current service charges. In case any such installment of arrears or any current service charges are not paid within thirty days after the date when the same is due and payable, then such agreement shall be void and the municipal authority shall file a certification with the municipal tax collector to establish a lien on the parcel of real property for the unpaid balance.