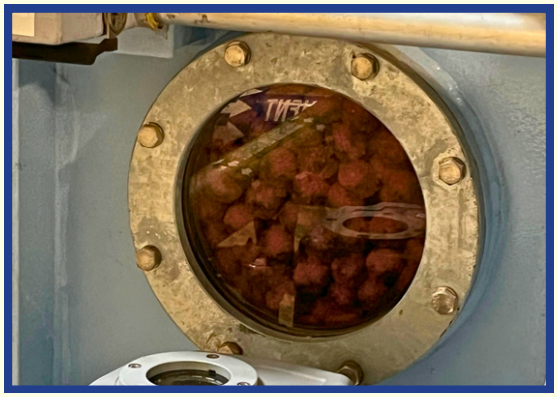
PATHOGENS & POINT SOURCE

SAN Pathogens and Point Source Workgroup Welcomed by Upper Montgomery Joint Authority for a Wastewater Treatment Plant Tour

On August 15, the SAN Pathogens and Point Source Workgroup gathered for an insightful visit at the Upper Montgomery Joint Authority (UMJA) in Pennsburg. The meeting commenced with a brief overview of partner updates, followed by an engaging tour of the facility guided by Operations Manager, Jason DiPietro.

Tour attendees gather for a group photo.

Mr. DiPietro led the group through the facility's recent transformations, highlighting features of a monumental $27 million upgrade from 2017 to 2020. This project marked a significant shift in treatment technology, transitioning from traditional trickling filtration to cutting-edge Biological Nutrient Removal (BNR) treatment and FuzzyFilters for tertiary filtration. These enhancements exemplify UMJA's commitment to adopting state-of-the-art wastewater management.



From 2019 to 2021, UMJA undertook extensive projects to reduce inflow and infiltration.

These included:

- Installation of flow meters in the collection system
- Detailed inspection of main and lateral lines
- Comprehensive lining and rehabilitation of laterals
- Installation of backflow preventers
- Third-party inspections of sump pumps

These results of these upgrades are significant, achieving a 30% reduction in both average daily and three-month maximum flows.

FuzzyFilters as shown in this photo to the left are compressible filter balls that allow operators to fine-tune adjustments

Community engagement is a cornerstone of UMJA's ethos. The establishment of a Fats, Oils, Grease, and Solids (FOGS) compliance program, coupled with providing extensive resources for local restaurants, underscores their commitment to community education and involvement.

In a creative endeavor, UMJA engaged students from Upper Perkiomen Valley High School in painting manhole covers throughout the plant, blending community involvement with artistic expression. (See photos of student art below). UMJA looks forward to welcoming the students back for more artistic contributions while educating them about wastewater management. Additionally, UMJA's commitment to public education includes offering regular plant tours.

Looking forward, UMJA plans to incorporate a freshwater mussel hatchery on-site. This initiative aligns with their mission to manage their operations in a socially, ethically, and environmentally responsible manner. Continuously striving to protect public health and improve the quality of life for their customers and the broader community, UMJA remains a beacon of progress and community partnership within the Perkiomen Valley.

Jason stands above one of several settling tanks where bacteria are at work in treatment water.

Jason shows tour guest, Joe Hebelka, and Meghan Rogalus the compactor where solids are extracted from the system.

Jason shows off the intricate systems monitoring system broadcasting live data feedback throughout the entire plant. Virgina Vassalotti, Alison Aminto and Chris Anderson in audience.

Click here - or scan for more photos of the tour on our Flickr Albm