

It's that time of year when water tables tend to get low.

In Lebanon County, the vast majority of people receive water from the Lebanon Water Authority, but some of our friends in Annville and Palmyra are hooked onto the American Water Company supply. Quite frankly, it doesn't matter if you have your own well or rely upon a public water supply. The Swatara Watershed Association would like to encourage you to think about and conserve water.

As more and more homes and businesses are erected, we place greater and greater demands upon a limited supply of fresh, clean water.

There are simple things that you can do to conserve water. For example:

1. Repair a leaking faucet;
2. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth;
3. In older toilets, install conservation kits that displace some of the water, causing the tank to use less water;
4. Don't water you lawn;
5. To cool down or for recreation, do swim at a public pool; and
6. Use a car wash that recycles their water.

If you'd like to become more self sufficient, consider installing a rain barrel to capture roof water for watering gardens and flowers. The next step up is a cistern to capture rain water. My grandfather had a cistern on his farm. Sometimes, what's old is new. For your cistern, now, instead of a metal tank, you can purchase one of those large plastic tanks from a farm supply store.

There's another advantage to cisterns. When cisterns reduce storm water runoff by holding water on site for future use, they are also helping to compensate for the extra runoff created by new roofs and parking lots. In a sinkhole prone community, every contribution to reducing runoff is important to retain storm water. Also, because there is a reduction in storm water runoff, our streams will not flood as quickly.

In closing, conserving and reusing water is in our own best interest. The Swatara Watershed Association respectfully asks you to do your part, and implement a reduce, reuse, and recycle water program in your home or business. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Swatara Watershed Association,
Jo Ellen Litz, president