

## **HYDRANT FLUSHING**

### **Unidirectional Flushing Program**

Every spring the Water Division flushes water lines to remove sedimentation from our distribution system. A few days prior to flushing we begin chlorinating the water. Then, starting at our clean water sources, i.e. our wells, we use a specific sequence of valve closings and hydrant openings to create higher water flow velocities to scour the pipes. This process usually takes between 6 to 8 weeks. Chlorination is discontinued approximately one week after flushing has ended.

### **Dead End Flushing**

During the late summer and early fall the Water Division flushes our dead ends. Dead ends occur where water mains cannot be looped, like at a cul-de-sac. This situation can lead to stagnant water and sediment buildup in the mains. Flushing of these dead-end hydrants ensures good water quality throughout the system.



As a result of the flushing process, residents in the immediate vicinity of the work may experience temporary discoloration of their water. This discoloration consists primarily of harmless silt and air and does not affect the safety of the water. If you experience discoloration in your water, clear the pipes in your home by running all water faucets for a few minutes. We recommend that water users wait until the water has cleared before using it for potable purposes. If this discoloration persists for more than 24 hours please contact the Water Division at 413-586-2390

Most flushing occurs from 8 am to 2:30 pm. If you see a town crew flushing hydrants, PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY!