

The Town of Riverhead Riverhead Water District

Water News



District Newsletter

Spring 2024

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Timothy Hubbard - Town Supervisor

Kenneth Rothwell - Councilman

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1035 Pulaski Street
Riverhead, New York 11901
Monday - Friday
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

www.townofriverheadny.gov

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY & RELIABILITY



Town Supervisor Tim Hubbard

The Town of Riverhead is proud to own and operate its own water supply and distribution system. The Riverhead Water District began in 1914 by servicing water to several hundred homes and businesses in what is considered today, the Downtown area. As the Town has grown, so have the water needs. Today the boundaries of the District extend from Brookhaven Town to Southold Town and from the Long Island Sound to the Peconic River. The Water District consists of over 236 miles of water main, more than 1,750 fire hydrants, 6 storage tanks, 16 supply wells and numerous pumps and valves all in-place to provide clean drinking water and fire protection to residents.

However, not all residents of the Town obtain their drinking water from the Water District; there are some areas of the Town where residents are provided with water through private wells and in some instances, these wells have been impacted by contaminants. Although these contaminants do not stem from town-related activity, the Town Board and Water District are committed to assisting residents secure funding to accomplish water extensions necessary to connect to safe, public drinking water which - in most cases - involves the installation of miles of new water pipe at a cost of tens of millions of dollars. The Town has secured funding from County, State and Federal agencies to fund these installations and continues to apply for additional funds.

Recently, the District commissioned filtration (pictured right) at their Middle Road well-field for the removal of contaminants both man-made and naturally occurring. It also initiated the deepening of an aged supply well on Pulaski Street and rehabilitated the interior coating of their Route 58 water storage tank. In addition to completing projects currently under construction, the District continues to plan for upgrades and improvements needed to continually improve water quality and reliability throughout the Town of Riverhead for years to come.



GAC filters used for removal of PFA compounds

Tim Hubbard
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

*Riverhead Water District - Providing Water To The Community
For over 100 Years!*

CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD

There have been many articles written discussing the potential of lead being in our drinking water. The Town and Riverhead Water District takes this issue very seriously and are taking steps to ensure the lowest possible exposure to lead from drinking water. Studies show that lead from many sources in the environment can cause health-related issues. Sources of lead can include gasoline, paint chips, soil and our drinking water.

The Water District routinely tests our supply wells for lead and has done so for over 30 years. Testing has determined that they do not contain lead. However, it is possible for lead to enter the water from interior plumbing lines and fixtures in your home or the service line between the water main in the street to your home. One exposure point is the corrosion of plumbing lines. The Water District provides water treatment in the form of polyphosphates and pH adjustment to reduce the corrosivity of the water and lessen the potential for lead leaking into the water. In addition, the District routinely conducts testing for lead at the tap to determine the effectiveness of the corrosion control treatment. The District is happy to report that results have been positive for 30 years.

This testing is performed in a sampling of homes that have been identified as having the potential to have lead-containing plumbing. It is not all encompassing, thus if you have or suspect you have a water line that contains lead, we want to know. The District continues to develop their service line inventory to determine where these service lines exist. Should you know that your home has a lead service, please contact the District office at 631-727-3205. We also want to know that you do not have a lead service line.

Not sure? This table will help you identify your plumbing material, just identify where your service enters your home (typically in basement or crawl space):

The pipe material could be	When you scratch, the pipe color is....	Does the magnet stick?
Copper	...orange like a penny.	No
Galvanized Steel	...dull gray.	Yes
Lead	...shiny and silver	No
Plastic	...either black or blue	No

I'm more than just another tall drink of water.

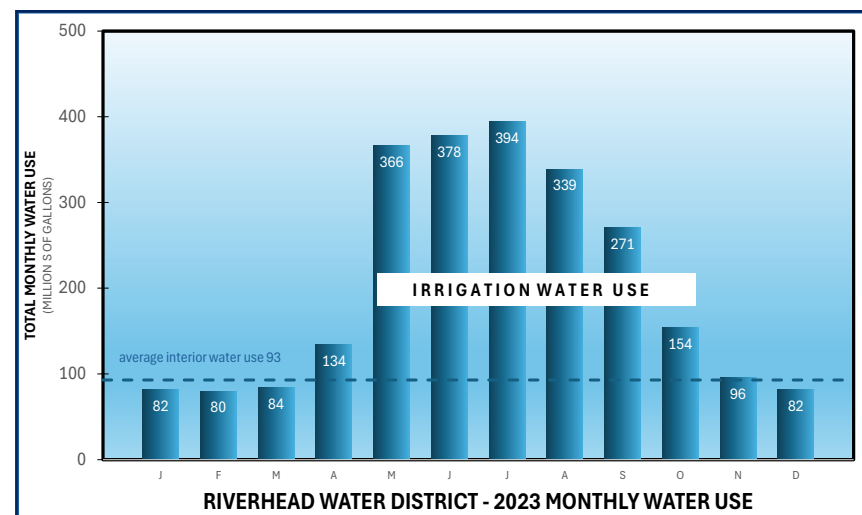
If only our tap water could talk to us. It might remind us that tap water is more than just a healthy, refreshing drink. It also fights fires, supports our economy and provides us with the high quality of life we enjoy.

Our water bills pay to keep our community tap water safe, reliable and there for us — 24/7 without fail. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit www.townofriverheadny.gov

Only Tap Water Delivers



Presented in cooperation with
American Water Works Association



On average, it is estimated that the average person uses approximately 100 gallons per day for their everyday needs. This increases to nearly 450 gallons per day per person during the hot and dry summer months as shown in the graph below. During the month of July 2023, almost 400 million gallons of water were used, of that approximately 80% was used for irrigation.

RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT BY THE NUMBERS

2.61 Billion
Gallons of water pumped by the District in 2023

198
Gallons of water used per person per day

36,000
Number of residents within the District

16
Supply wells operated by the District

10,000±
Water Quality tests per year conducted by District

\$1.95
Cost for a 1,000 gallons of water

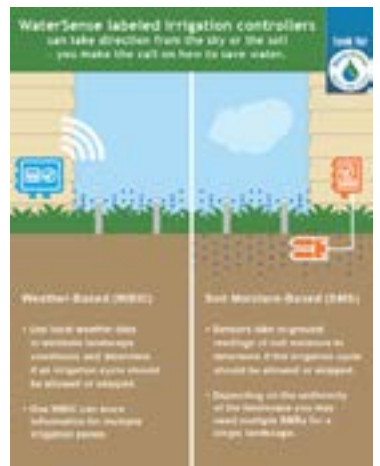
236
Miles of water mains maintained by District

1,731±
Fire Hydrants maintained by District

INSTALL A SMART IRRIGATION CONTROLLER

In 2017 at the direction of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Water District created a Water Conservation Plan. Each year the District updates this plan to evaluate the effectiveness of this Plan. In 2023 the District pumped 2.61 billion gallons of water, of which 95.2% was billed to the consumers. Some of the sources of the remaining 4.8% is includes water used for firefighting, system flushing and street cleaning. Since 2017, the District has significantly reduced this unbilled amount through leak detection surveys, water meter replacement and in-plant equipment calibration. Another means of reducing water use is through tiered water rates. In January of 2023, the Town adopted a tiered water rate structure aimed at properties that require significant water demands for lawn irrigation. The tiered rate is assessed on those consumers whom exceed an established water consumption threshold. Please see the Town website for detailed information. The tiered rate was adopted as many residents employ a “set it and forget it,” mentality with their irrigation systems, however users should be aware that lawns and gardens require less water in the Spring & Fall than during the Summer months and watering times should be adjusted through the season.

One way in which you can adjust these watering times plus help conserve water and save money is through smart irrigation controllers. These controllers are one of the best ways to conserve water and help reduce the large peak in water usage this warm season. A smart irrigation controller adjusts water schedules to make sure your lawn doesn't receive too much or too little water. These devices can use either local weather data or soil moisture sensors to determine watering times and are enabled with WiFi capabilities. The smart controller can be operated through your smartphone, tablet, or laptop and using them will help conserve water and lower your water bill. Look for a smart irrigation controller with the WaterSense label! These controllers have been certified by the EPA for efficiency and performance. For more information about the EPA WaterSense program, visit www.epa.gov/watersense/irrigation-controllers.



WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2023. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2023. A copy of this report can also be found at the Town's website at www.townofriverheadny.gov.

The District is proud to report that our water meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water standards. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the Water District at 631.727.3205.



Town of Riverhead
Riverhead Water District
1035 Pulaski Street,
Riverhead, New York 11901



Providing Water to Riverhead
for over 100 Years

PAPERLESS BILLING IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR WATER BILLS

Please visit the Town of Riverhead website and
click the tab shown below and register today!



Please be advised - Your water is safe to drink during this coronavirus crisis.

OTHER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Watering only every other day would go a long way in helping the Water District achieve its water conservation goals. There are many other ways every member of our community can save water everyday. Here are a few conservation tips that may help:

- Insulate water pipes to get hot water faster and reduce the need to run the faucet longer.
- Many consumers are not aware when the sprinklers go on. Sprinkler systems should be periodically checked for broken heads and/or leaking pipings and system repairs should be made as soon as possible. One broken sprinkler head could waste up to 25,000 gallons of water over a 6 month irrigation season.
- Utilize drip irrigation in your gardens. Drip irrigation is not only more efficient, but saves up to 80% in water usage and can help reduce your water bill.
- Consider planting more trees, shrubs, ground covers, and less grass. Use native plants in flower beds.
- Fix that leaking faucet. A leaking faucet or leaking toilet can amount to over 100 gallons per day. Multiply that by the hundreds of faucets that could be leaking on any given day wasting substantial amounts of water!



- Ask your local nursery for tips about plants and grasses with low water demand. Cluster plants that require extra care together to minimize time and save water.

- Install water saving devices such as rain gauges or soil sensors. Ensure the system is set-up to deliver the proper amount of water. Use 1" of water per week as a general rule of thumb.

- 90% - 95% of pool and spa water lost to evaporation can be saved by installing a pool cover.

- Conserving water can also extend the life of your septic system by reducing soil saturation and reducing pollution due to leaks. It also avoids the overloading of municipal sewer systems. The smaller amount of water flowing through these systems, the lower the likelihood of pollution.



The bottom line is; conserving water saves money on your water bill, sewage bill and your tax bill.

For more conservation tips, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.