

The Town of Riverhead

Riverhead Water District

Water News



District Newsletter

Spring 2022

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www.townofriverheadny.gov

GROWTH IN THE TOWN AND IN THE WATER DISTRICT



Town Supervisor Yvette Aguiar

We have always known the Town of Riverhead as an exciting place to live and work, but others are now discovering us as well. There are a multitude of great projects that have noticed the Town over the past few years. Travel to downtown Riverhead and you can't help but notice the new construction including multi-unit residential development, restaurants and retail. It shows Riverhead as a desirable place to live and work as evident by our receipt of a Downtown Revitalization grant. But downtown Riverhead is not our only focus. The Town's location is also attracting several industrial developments along the Route 25 corridor and beyond.

In addition, the Town has residents who obtain their water from private wells. Some of these wells have been impacted by contamination. It is the Town's and Water District's intent and responsibility to ensure all our

residents have a clean, safe and reliable source of drinking water. For this, we as the Town and Water District fully intend to extend public water to these parcels and maintain the high standard of operation.

Although it's a great time to live and work in the Town of Riverhead, these developments and the extension of public water bring with it a demand for increased water and fire protection. To do this we need to maintain our course and continue to develop new sources of water, construct storage, maintain the assets we have and install treatment where necessary to exceed drinking water standards.

With the increased facilities and demand, the personnel of the Water District will need to work even harder to meet the Town's needs. Without the personnel, the Town cannot successfully grow.

Please feel free to contact the Water District office at 631-727- 3205 with any questions concerning our water supply.



Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

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

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

Over the past year, the Riverhead Town Board and Water District continued to implement our Capital Improvement Plan in response to increasing the District's ability to meet current and future water demands as well as meet all Federal, State and local drinking water standards.

In 2021, the District reported on the New York State Department of Health establishing a new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for two emerging contaminants, PFOS and PFOA. Water quality testing has detected these contaminants in one of the District's sixteen wells. In response the District has commenced with the construction of a granular activated carbon filtration system designed to remove these compounds from the affected well. It is expected that this filtration system will be up and running by August of 2022 and produce water with non-detectable levels of the contaminants of concern. In addition, the District is also in the process of constructing a separate filtration system designed to remove the naturally occurring compounds manganese and iron at their Middle Road well field.

Other Capital Improvement projects the District is undertaking at various stages include the rehabilitation of water storage tanks in Northville, the construction of an additional storage tank and well in the Wading River area and later this year tank painting at the Route 58 tank. Also in the works is an extension of public water to homes with private wells impacted by contamination.

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTINUES!

On a hot summer day, the Riverhead Water District delivers up to 20 million gallons of water per day to meet the demands of the Town. Conversely on an average day, the quantity of water demanded is 3 times less. This 300% increase in the summer months is attributed to lawn irrigation systems. To meet the peak summer water demands of the Town plus maintain adequate capacity for fire protection, the Water District needs to maintain a sufficient capacity of their supply wells and pump stations. Therefore, as our water use continues to increase, the District needs to construct new supply facilities - even though these facilities may only be necessary for a few peak days during the year.

There are many ways to reduce the impact of the peak water use days through water conservation by the residents of the Town. The greatest impact a resident can have is in curbing and/or monitoring their irrigation use by:

- Installing Smart Water sensors that monitor rainfall and soil moisture to prevent overwatering.
- Adopting ODD/EVEN sprinkling practices. If your address ends in an ODD number, limit days of watering to ODD calendar days. Vice-versa for EVEN number addresses.
- Utilize native plants and bushes that require less water or plant drought tolerant species. Utilize drip irrigation where appropriate and provide mulch or ground cover in planting beds. Drip irrigation is not only more efficient, but saves up to 80% in water usage.
- Monitor your irrigation practices. Limit water to 1" per week guidelines. Water during the cool part of the day, in the morning or evening. Do not water on windy days.
- One broken sprinkler head could waste up to 25,000 gallons of water over a 6-month irrigation season. This equates to \$50 per broken head.
- Reduce run time for each zone by 10%.
- Identify and quickly repair broken heads, adjust spray patterns to avoid walkways, drives and roads.

Other tips for conserving water are located later in this letter.

Over the past 10 years, the Water District has done their part to conserve water. Some of the programs they have and continue to implement include:

- Continuing to update their Water Conservation Plan, first established in 2017.
- Completed a Leak Detection Survey on the water distribution system. All leaks identified have been repaired.
- Conduct an annual audit of the District's top 10 water users.
- Continue with the Meter Replacement Program to ensure meters are accurate.
- Work with local schools and homeowners groups to promote public education and public awareness of the need to conserve water.
- Reinforce and encourage compliance with irrigation restrictions.

These efforts have enabled the Water District to reduce their water losses to 5%, this equates to 130 million gallons in 2021!

The Town Board encourages all residents to consider water conservation in their everyday lives. If we cannot curb our peak demands, water rates will continue to rise to fund the construction of new facilities and maintain the integrity of existing facilities. Let's save water for both emergency use and to ensure we have a safe and economical supply of drinking water for generations to come.

CONCERNED ABOUT LEAD IN DRINKING WATER?

There have been many articles written discussing the potential of lead being in our drinking water. The Town and Riverhead Water District take 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 is developing an 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 want to be here for you.

If only our water infrastructure could talk to us. The corner hydrant might remind us that only tap water protects us against the threat of fire, and that the pipes below our streets need constant attention to keep life-saving water flowing at the right pressure, 24/7, without fail.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure generations before handed down to us, and our water bills keep that system strong and reliable. 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



WATER FACTS & FIGURES

- Water Consumed in 2021 – 2.62 billion gallons
- Water Use Per Person – 205 gallons per day per person
- Peak Day Water Use – 19,600,000 gallons
- Peak Day Water Use per Person – 560 gallons per person
- Average Winter Use – 2.9 million gallons per day
- Average Summer Use – 13.5 million gallons per day

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2021. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2021. 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



Interested in a career in the Water Industry? The Town of Riverhead is seeking a qualified individual to serve in the FT position of Maintenance Mechanic II in the Water District. Responsibilities would include assisting in the day-to-day operations of the District and working to ensure a continued source of drinking water to the Town. A great industry to start a career with plenty of room for advancement. If interested, please visit the Town website at www.townofriverheadny.gov/employment.

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.
- You waste about 5 gallons of water each time you leave the water running while brushing your teeth.
- For outdoor water use, utilize a hose with a shut-off nozzle for rinsing.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when they are full.
- Fix that leaking faucet. A leaking faucet or leaking toilet can amount to over 100 gallons per day.



- Reduce pool and spa water lost to evaporation by installing a pool cover.

- Use cleaning products that will not harm the environment when they are washed away after use. Look for “environmentally friendly” products when shopping.



- Conserving water can also extend the life of your septic system by reducing soil saturation and reducing pollution. It also avoids the overloading of municipal sewer systems.

Conserving water saves money now and in the future by avoiding rate increases. For more conservation tips, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.