The Town of Riverhead
Riverhead Water District

# Water News

District Newsletter Spring 2018

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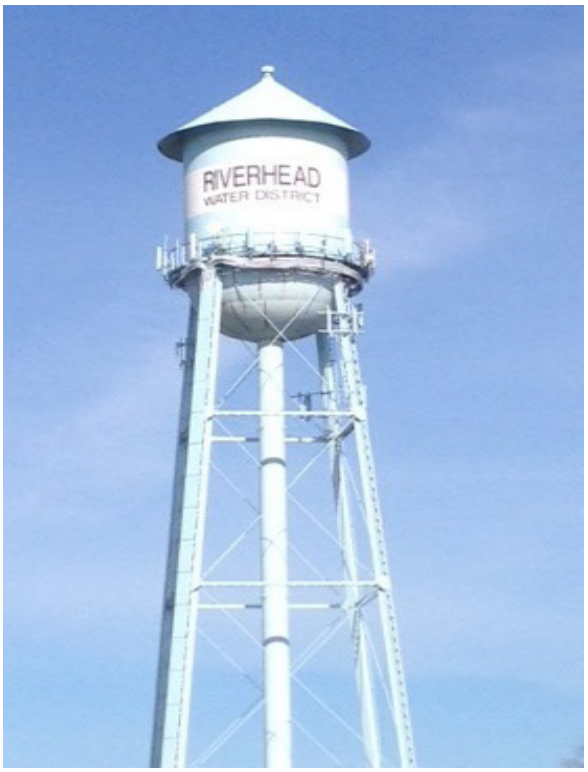
## RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT PROVIDING AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE

The Town of Riverhead provides many essential services to our residents every day. However, none of them is as critical as the service provided by the Riverhead Water District. For over 100 years the Water District has provided a safe and reliable supply of water service to the residents of the District. From a high quality drinking water to a sufficient supply of water for fire protection - the health of the community is contingent on a reliable public water supply.

The Riverhead Water District continuously evaluates its water supply facilities to ensure the systems are in proper operating condition and of sufficient capacity to meet the water demands of the community. The District is constructing several new facilities to improve both quality and capacity, as discussed later in this newsletter.

The District is also implementing a revised Water Conservation Plan to reduce the maximum water use during hot summer days. It is crucial that all residents of the District practice water conservation so that we do not need to construct multi-million dollar well sites that will only be needed on a few peak days of the year.




The Town and Water District takes pride in providing superior water quality in a cost-effective manner. A summary of the water quality from 2017 is attached to this newsletter in our Annual Water Supply Statement/Consumer Confidence Report.

The District staff members are dedicated to maintaining the water system in optimum condition to allow for a reliable source of water 24 hours a day / 365 days a year. Our staff continues to make Riverhead one of the best places to live, work and raise a family.

Do not hesitate to call the Water District at 631-727-3205 if you have any questions or concerns about your water supply.

Laura Jens-Smith
Town Supervisor

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

# WATER CONSERVATION PLAN IS UPDATED!

On a typical hot summer day, the Riverhead Water District needs to pump up to 20 million gallons per day. That quantity of water is over six (6) times what we pump on a typical winter day. This huge increase can mostly be attributed to lawn irrigation. It is estimated that up to 80 percent of the water pumped on a hot summer day is used to irrigate our lawns.

What this means is that the Water District needs to maintain and operate all of our 17 wells to meet the peak day water demands for the few peak days of the year, while they only need 3 or 4 wells to meet the water demands during the winter period. Therefore, as our water use continues to increase, the District will need to construct new supply facilities. As discussed within this newsletter, the District is in the process of identifying new well locations and proposes a test well program to locate future well sites.

Rather than constructing several new supply wells, the District is proposing to encourage water conservation by the residents of the District as a means of reducing our peak water use demands.

Over the past 20 years, the overall water use across Long Island, including Riverhead, has continued to increase. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) has stated their concern that if water conservation is not implemented on Long Island, there could be an adverse impact to the underground aquifer system.

The Town of Riverhead and The Riverhead Water District agreed there was a need to update their Water Conservation Plan as a way to reduce summer pumpage by approximately 15%. The District prepared an updated plan in 2017 and has started to implement new conservation measures. The District has or will be implementing the following water conservation measures:

- Completed a Leak Detection Survey on over 3/4 of the District's 235 miles of water main, with the remainder scheduled over the next two years.
- Increase Public Outreach/Public Education Program to encourage water conservation
- Meet with Top Water Users to discuss ways to reduce water use
- Communicate with irrigation system contractors to encourage ODD/EVEN sprinkler restrictions rather than setting controllers to water every day. Also encourage time of day restrictions to eliminate 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. irrigation use.
- Communicate with residential multi-unit water users (HOA) to encourage irrigation use reduction.
- Water District's independent conservation program has reduced the unaccounted billed consumption to under 6.5%.

The Riverhead Water District encourages all residents to consider water conservation in their everyday lives. It could be as simple as reducing the period of time you run your irrigation system by 10% per zone. So if you now run for 10 minutes per zone, reduce it to 9 minutes per zone.

So let's save water so we have sufficient capacity for emergency use and to ensure we have a sufficient supply of drinking water for future generations.

# WATER USE FACTS & FIGURES

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|---|---|---|
| Water Consumed in 2017 | - | 2.29 billion gallons |
| Water Use Per Person | - | 180 gallons per day per person |
| Peak Day Water Use | - | 16,325,000 |
| Water Use Per Person on Peak Day | - | 466 gallons per day |
| Average Winter Water Use | - | 2.81 million gallons per day |
| Average Summer Water use | - | 12.2 million gallons per day |

# WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2017. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2017. 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.

# CONTINUING TO UPGRADE OUR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

The Water District recently conducted an evaluation of it's water demand versus water supply capacity and has determined that several water infrastructure improvements are necessary, as part of a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan.

The District has recently completed the installation of additional water transmission mains on Pulaski Street, Mill Road and Osborn Avenue. This will allow water from Well Nos. 1, 2 and 3 at Pulaski Street Plant to be pumped north to areas of high water demand.

The District is working closely with USGS (US Geological Survey) to conduct a test well program that will investigate potential locations for new supply wells. The District is proposing to construct at least one future well within the next three (3) years.

The District is in the final stages of constructing a new water storage tank and booster pump station at Plant No. 15 on Tuthills Lane. This system should be completed by fall 2018 and will provide additional pumping capacity during peak periods.

A third project that the District is implementing includes the installation of emergency generators at Main Plant and Plant No. 16. This work should be completed this year to ensure that the residents of the Riverhead Water District continue to have water even during power outages.

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Riverhead Water District
1035 Pulaski Street,
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Providing Water to Riverhead
for over 100 Years

# 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 faucet longer.
- Many consumers are not awake 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.

- 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 and that adds up to a lot of wasted water!
- Consider drought resistant landscaping or xeriscaping and install plants and shrubs native to the region.

- Install water saving devices such as rain gauges or soil sensors
- 90% - 95% of pool and spa water lost to evaporation can be saved by installing a pool cover.

- Every glass of water brought to your table in a restaurant requires another two glasses of water to wash and rinse the glass. Since nearly 70 million meals are served each day in US restaurants, we'd save more than 26 million gallons of water if only one person in four declined the complimentary glassful.

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