

## SUPERVISOR WALTER: OUR CONTINUING WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

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Supervisor Sean Walter

Photo by Barbaraellen Koch/Riverhead News-Review

The Riverhead Water District takes great care in providing our residents with a plentiful supply of clean, healthy drinking water. The District's hard-working and dedicated staff work tirelessly to ensure that our residents have water 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year.

What you may not realize is that during the summer, most of our water supply goes directly toward irrigation. On a hot summer day, we estimate that water used for sprinkling our lawns and gardens represents 70 to 90% of the water pumped. That's approximately 12 million gallons on any given day in mid-July. Last year the District pumped over 3 billion gallons of water.

Sean M. Walter - Town Supervisor

John Dunleavy - Councilman

Jodi Giglio - Councilwoman

Tim Hubbard - Councilman

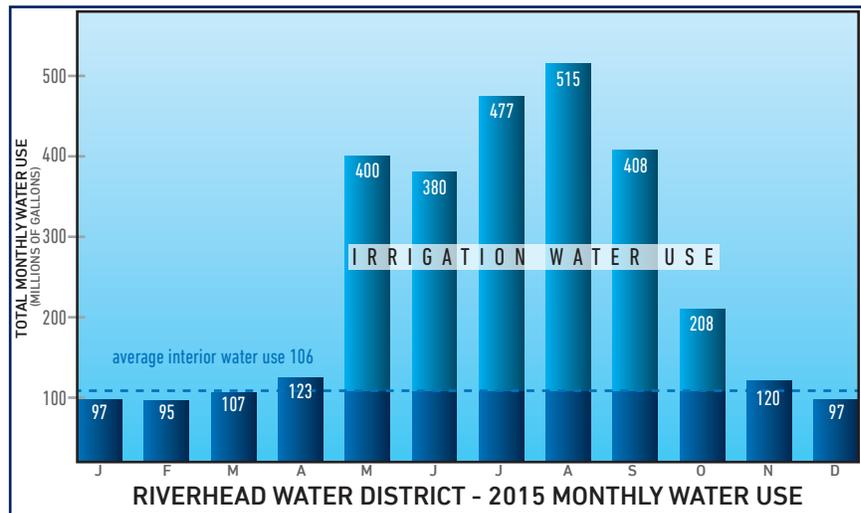
James Wooten - Councilman

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[www.townofriverheadny.gov](http://www.townofriverheadny.gov)



On average, it is estimated that the average person uses approximately 100 gallons per day for their everyday needs. This increases to over 450 gallons per day per person during the hot and dry summer months as shown in the graph below. During the month of August 2015, 515 million gallons of water were used, of that approximately 90% was used for irrigation.

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

## SUPERVISOR WALTER: OUR CONTINUING WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM (cont'd.)

Here are just a few examples of how you can help conserve this valuable resource:

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. Most lawns only need about 1" of water each week.
- Watering early in the day or later at night conserves water. Watering at these times allows water to soak into the soil rather than evaporate. Watering early in the day is also the best defense against slugs and other garden pests.
- Adding mulch around your trees and plants will reduce evaporation, too.
- Make certain that your sprinklers are directed at your lawn and plantings and not on the driveway, sidewalks or roadway.

In 2015, the District revamped their water conservation plan and has implemented a number of measures to aid in reducing peak water usage and account for lost water. Some of these measures include large commercial meter replacements, distribution leak detection studies and education.

We strongly encourage residents to be mindful of their water use and be thoughtful of ways you can save water. A few simple changes can help consumers reduce their water bills, extend the life of our infrastructure and help conserve for future generations.

Working with Supt. Mark Conklin, the Town and District will continue to implement our water conservation plan which will continue to reduce our peak water use by approximately 10 percent within the coming year. However, we need the cooperation of the residents of the District to continue to implement the plan. It is imperative that all residents follow the conservation plan procedures and tips. If we do not succeed, we may need to implement more stringent water restriction measures this summer.

Should any resident have questions concerning our water conservation plan, please call the Water District at 631.727.3205.



*Photo courtesy of Peter Blas/RiverheadLocal*

## CONTINUOUSLY TESTED DRINKING WATER QUALITY

With the recent water crisis in Flint, Michigan, you may be wondering - How is our water quality in Riverhead? The Riverhead Water District is once again proud to announce that the water quality being provided to our residents exceeds all Federal, State and Local Health Department drinking water standards.

The enclosed 2015 Annual Water Supply Statement/Consumer Confidence Report has been prepared to summarize the water quality of our water over the last year. As shown in the report, our water meets or exceeds all water quality standards.

“The District continuously tests the water quality from all of our supply wells and from our distribution system. We have the water tested by an independent New York State approved testing laboratory that conducts over 5,000 tests annually, checking for over 180 different parameters,” stated Water District Superintendent Mark Conklin. These parameters include heavy metals, inorganic compounds, volatile organic compounds, herbicides, pesticides, as well as bacteriological tests.

In addition, the District conducts a special lead testing program to ensure we do not have lead leaching into our drinking water. The Water District has also been providing corrosion control treatment to our water for over 30 years. It should be noted that although we do not use lead service line pipes, some older homes and buildings may contain plumbing pipes and fixtures containing lead and/or lead based material.

The Riverhead Water District staff takes pride in delivering its residents a safe supply of water. You can be sure that we will continue to do everything to ensure that our water is always safe to drink. Should you have any questions about your water quality or the enclosed water quality report, please contact the District at 631.727.3205.

## WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2015. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2015. A copy of this report can also be found at the Town's website at [www.townofriverheadny.gov](http://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.

## ODD AND EVEN TO REDUCE THE PEAK BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Once again this year, the Riverhead Water District will be implementing a voluntary lawn irrigation program that will only permit the watering of a lawn every other day, based on the address number of your home. ODD number houses would water on ODD days of the month; EVEN number houses would water on EVEN days of the month.



During the hottest summer day, approximately 80 percent of all the water being supplied by the Riverhead Water District goes directly to lawn irrigation, with over 70 percent of all homeowners having an irrigation system. They are great for keeping our lawns green throughout the summer, but they are putting a tremendous strain on our precious water supply system. The real question is: Do we need to water everyday?

Horticultural specialists have determined that it is better for a lawn to be irrigated less frequently than daily to promote deep root growth. And the Cornell Cooperative

Extension recommends that Long Island lawns only need 1 inch of rain or irrigation per week.

The Riverhead Water District is recommending that all homeowners with automatic irrigation systems set up their control panels to operate every other day. You may also want to install a rain or soil sensor that will shut down the irrigation system during rain events or when watering is not needed.



# 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](http://www.townofriverheadny.gov)



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 American Water Works Association





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



Providing Water to Riverhead  
 for over 100 Years



## OTHER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Irrigation restrictions on an every other day basis is the prime action of our Water Conservation Program. But there are many other ways every member of our community can save water everyday. Here are a few conservation tips that may help:



- Run full loads in dishwasher and washing machines.
- Insulate water pipes to get hot water faster and reduce the need to run 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 as soon as possible.
- 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!



- Filling a plastic bottle with water and place in toilet tanks can save gallons of water per day.
- Store a pitcher of water in your refrigerator rather than letting it run until cold every time you want a cold glass of water.



- Don't let the faucet run when brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on and off when needed.

For more conservation tips, please visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).