

# Water News

## District Newsletter

Spring 2021

### In this issue:

**TOWN RUN WATER DISTRICT -  
STILL GOING STRONG!**

**WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS  
CONTINUE**

**WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM  
CONTINUES!**

**WATER QUALITY REPORT**

**OTHER WATER CONSERVATION  
TIPS**

**Yvette Aguiar - Town Supervisor**

**Tim Hubbard - Councilman**

**Frank Beyrodt - Councilman**

**Catherine Kent - Councilwoman**

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8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

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

## **TOWN RUN WATER DISTRICT STILL GOING STRONG !**



*Town Supervisor Yvette Aguiar*

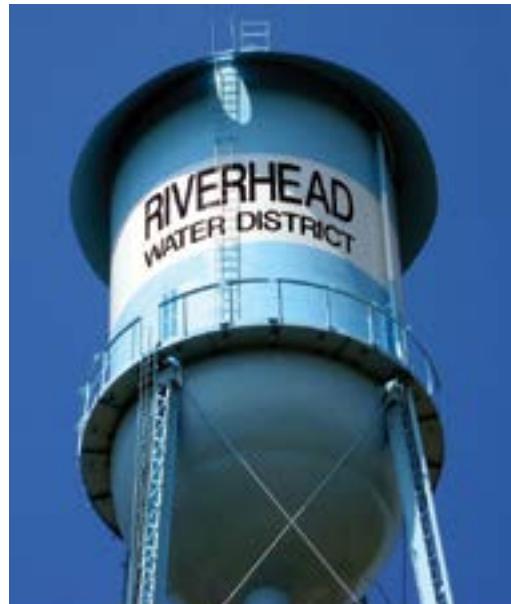
The Riverhead Water District has been providing safe, clean water to our residents for over 100 years. As the only town on Long Island to own and operate its own water district, the Town of Riverhead remains committed in its objective to ensure each and every household within town boundaries has a reliable source of pure, clean, potable drinking water.

Over the last twenty years, the Town of Riverhead has experienced tremendous residential and commercial growth, and our Water District has expanded to fulfill increasing demand. With exciting new plans to revitalize the downtown area, our water district staff continues to work tirelessly to meet the growing drinking water and fire protection needs of our community.

Exceptional water quality for our residents remains our utmost priority. Newly emerging contaminants in the water supply across Long Island necessitated new regulations for drinking water standards, impacting every water supplier on Long Island. The Riverhead Town Board, together with the Riverhead Water District are aggressively addressing these new regulations which are more fully detailed within this newsletter.

The dedicated staff of the Riverhead Water District remains committed to maintaining the continued high standard of operation of our water system, in order to provide superior water quality and to ensure a reliable source of water for the residents of the Town of Riverhead, for generations to come.

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

The Riverhead Town Board and the Water District have recently accelerated our Capital Improvement Plan in response to increasing the District's supply to be able to meet current and future water demands as well as providing new wellhead treatment systems need to meet all Federal, State and local drinking water standards.

New York State Department of Health recently established new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for emerging contaminants. Water quality testing has detected low levels of two of these emerging contaminants, PFOA and PFOS. The District is in the process of designing a wellhead treatment system for Well No. 5-1 on Middle Road and expect to have the system in operation by fall of 2022.

Other Capital Improvement projects currently underway include:

- Rehabilitation of water storage tanks
- Rehabilitation of existing wells at Plant No. 2 to improve water quality and quantity
- Test Well Program to find new sources of supply wells
- Wellhead treatment for iron and manganese removal at Plant No. 5
- Installation of wellhead treatment for the removal of PFA compounds.

The Town and District continues to evaluate the condition of existing facilities to ensure that all equipment remains in proper operating condition.

The District has implemented a Water Quality and System Improvement Surcharge to financially support the current Capital Improvement Plan. For more details concerning the Capital Improvement Plan and Surcharge, please visit the Water District's website at [www.townofriverheadny.gov](http://www.townofriverheadny.gov).

## TOM KRUGER IS RETIRING!

Former Assistant Superintendent Tom Kruger to retire after 33 years of service to the Town of Riverhead and Riverhead Water District. A life-long resident of Riverhead, Tom was hired by the Town in April of 1988 as a Maintenance Mechanic II within the Riverhead Water District. He obtained his New York State Water Treatment Plant Operator IIB Certification in June 1990 and achieved the Plant Operator IB Certification in April 2004. Mr. Kruger served as the Assistant Superintendent since December 2014.

Tom has been instrumental in the day-to-day supervision of the operations of the Water District for the past three decades. His dedication and commitment to providing the residents of the Town a safe and reliable source of water will be missed.

The District offers a special thank you to Tom for all that he has done for the residents of Riverhead.

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

**Only Tap Water Delivers**



Presented in cooperation with

 American Water Works Association

## WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTINUES!

Most people do not realize how much water they use everyday. In Riverhead, the typical resident uses 130 gallons per day per person. The amazing fact is this amount increases by 400 percent on hot summer days. That's over 500 gallons per day per person! You may be asking - How can that be?

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.

As a result, the Water District must maintain and operate all 17 wells to meet the peak day water demands for the few peak days of the year, while we only need 3 or 4 wells to meet the water demand during the winter period. Therefore, as our water demand use continues to increase, the District will need to construct new supply and storage facilities. Rather than constructing several new supply wells, the District encourages 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 concerns that if water conservation is not implemented on Long Island, it will result in an adverse impact to our underground aquifer system. Over-pumping of our aquifer system can lead to salt water intrusion in certain areas of Long Island.

The Riverhead Water District reviews its own conservation efforts each year and has successfully reduced their unaccounted water from over 10% to less than 5% since 2017. This equates to an average of 125 MILLION GALLONS each year that is no longer lost to leaks, ineffective meters, or waste.

Moving forward, the Water District will continue to stress water conservation by:

- Working with other Town entities to install SMART Irrigation Controllers at Town facilities and encourage residents and business owners to do the same.
- Stressing the importance of all consumers to participate in voluntary ODD/EVEN watering days.
- Stressing the importance of proper irrigation practices, such as 1" per week guidelines and the avoidance of irrigating before 10:00 AM.
- Continuing District-Wide meter replacement
- Continuing its Leak Detection Program
- Continuing with Public Outreach & Education

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

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 FACTS & FIGURES

- Water Consumed in 2020 – 2.58 billion gallons
- Water Use Per Person – 195 gallons per day per person
- Peak Day Water Use – 20,114,000 gallons
- Peak Day Water Use per Person – 540 gallons per person
- Average Winter Use – 2.9 million gallons per day
- Average Summer Use – 13.4 million gallons per day

### WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2020. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2020. 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.



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



Providing Water to Riverhead  
for over 100 Years



*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 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.
- 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](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).