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www.townofriverheadny.gov

CORONAVIRUS AND OUR WATER SUPPLY



Town Supervisor Yvette Aguiar

As Town Supervisor, the health, safety and well-being of all Riverhead residents and Town employees is my top priority. Despite any interruptions you might be experiencing in your daily life as a result of the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19), be assured that the Water District staff continues to operate as an essential service during this emergency, ensuring everyone has a safe and abundant supply of drinking water with sufficient water reserve for fire protection.

The District would like you to know that **OUR WATER IS SAFE TO DRINK!**

The World Health Organization and the CDC have confirmed our water is safe to drink. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, COVID-19 is not known to be waterborne and thus cannot adversely affect your water. Riverhead's water supply quality remains unchanged due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Therefore, there is no need to stockpile bottled water.

Our dedicated employees of the Water District are essential, and cannot "work from home", since well-pumps and treatment systems need to be operated continuously to keep water flowing to residents. Water samplings continue and optimum testing is performed on a daily basis ensuring the water remains safe to drink.

In order to comply with social distancing requirements and remain operational, our Water District employees have been operating on split shifts to limit person-to-person contact and maintain social distancing in the work place. All in-house meter repairs have been suspended until further notice and all residential service calls have also been suspended except for emergencies. All of our employees have been provided with the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) to protect themselves, as well as the public. In addition, although the Water District office staff continue to work to serve Riverhead residents, the office has been closed to the public until further notice. Any questions may be directed to (631)727-3205.

The Riverhead Water District will remain proactive in addressing the COVID-19 situation and follow the guidelines as established by the New York State and Suffolk County Department of Health Services.

I want to extend my thanks to Frank Mancini, our Water District Superintendent and all of his dedicated staff who have worked tirelessly during this unprecedented and challenging time to maintain the Water District.

The Town of Riverhead and the Riverhead Water District hope that you and your family remain safe and healthy during this unprecedented crisis.



Photo Credit - Tin Man by Bill Wilkinson

Yvette Aguiar
Supervisor, Town of Riverhead

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

WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM CONTINUES!

On a typical hot summer day, the Riverhead Water District pumps up to 20 million gallons per day from its 17 supply wells. It also relies on water stored in tanks around the Town. The summer demand is over six times what is pumped 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.

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 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.

Another reason for implementing an aggressive water conservation program this year is related to the COVID-19 health crisis. Should the pandemic conditions continue into this summer when our water demands increase, we are concerned about potential supply chain issues that could result in shortages of chemicals such as chlorine for disinfection. It is critical that we properly chlorinate our water supply and we would need to limit water use if chlorine supplies become limited. Conservation is a proactive approach should we ever experience a chlorine shortage.

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 if water conservation is not implemented on Long Island, resulting in an adverse impact to our underground aquifer system.

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.

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



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ALMOST 40 YEARS OF SERVICE... SUPERINTENDENT MARK CONKLIN RETIRES

After 38 ½ years of service to the Town, Longtime Riverhead Water District employee Mark Conklin has retired from his position as Superintendent of the Water District. A life-long resident of the Town, Mark graduated from Riverhead High School in 1972. After earning a degree from SUNY Delhi, Mark returned to Riverhead and in 1981 began his career in the Water industry as a general laborer for the District. Over the course of his career he rose through the ranks, serving as Assistant Superintendent since 1989 and ultimately attaining the position of Water District Superintendent in 2014. During his tenure at the District, Mark helped oversee unprecedented growth of the District resulting from population booms and large-scale development. Mark's dedication and commitment to providing the residents of the Town a safe and reliable source of water are unmatched and his tireless work and sacrifice leaves us and his successor in a better place with the District pointed in the right direction. A special thank you to Mark for all that he has done for the residents of Riverhead.

WELCOME NEW WATER SUPERINTENDENT FRANK MANCINI

In September of 2019, the Town welcomed Mr. Frank Mancini as the next Superintendent of Water. Mr. Mancini comes to the Town with a vast knowledge of water system operations. Prior to joining the District, Frank served as the Water System Supervisor for Brookhaven National Lab and as Field Supervisor & Hydrogeologist for the Suffolk County Water Authority. Frank has earned a degree in Geology from Stony Brook University and an MBA from Dowling College. Furthermore, he also maintains his 1B Water Plant Operators license, a Grade D license for distribution and is a registered New York State licensed geologist. In his new position, his goals for the District are to modernize the existing water system, continue to stress water conservation and improve water resource management through coordination with the USGS and NYSDEC.

WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

In 2019, the District completed and placed on-line its new 2.0 million gallon ground storage tank and booster system at their Tuthills Lane wellfields. In addition, the District commenced with a strengthening of its Osborn Avenue well building by performing much needed improvements to its structural, electrical and water treatment facilities, completed the installation of a tank mixing system at its Palane Road storage tank, and upgraded well facilities at Plant No. 4 and at the Main plant on Pulaski Street.

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2019. This report presents the facts concerning the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2019. A copy of this report may also be located on 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
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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

Limiting watering to every other day can 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 every day. 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.
- Sprinkler systems should be periodically checked for broken heads and/or leaking pipes. 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 will 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 waste over 100 gallons of water 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 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 may 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. This practice also avoids the overloading of municipal sewer systems. The smaller amount of water flowing through these systems, the lower the likelihood of pollution.
- Conserving water saves money on your water bill, sewage bill and your tax bill.



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

WATER FACTS & FIGURES:

Water Consumed in 2019 – 2.49 billion gallons
 Water Use Per Person – 195 gallons per day per person
 Peak Day Water Use – 18,915,000 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