

PUBLIC INFORMATION POST (November 3, 2023):

Be sure to read an earlier post talking about the current Capital Improvement Projects that the Town is working on to improve the Round Hill Water & Sewer System. Projects such as a new well and a new water storage tank were approved in previous years. Construction is underway for the new well and is on track to be online in February. The new water storage tank will break ground in the next 18 months.

The Town Staff has received many calls today from customers who want to understand the drought and how they can help.

Many families in Round Hill have been able to cut back their usage. The Town Staff is working to reach out to the families that continue to use 400 or more gallons per day. In some instances, over 500 gallons per day.

The Town is suggesting that people try to use about 35 gallons per person (a family of 4 would use 140 to 160 gallons per day). But we understand that every household is different, and we are still looking to understand individual needs to see how we can help (rain barrels or low flow devices).

Water bills will be mailed on Monday, and you will be able to see your usage over September and October. If your usage is under 8,000 gallons for two months - you are meeting that 140 gallons a day average for a family of 4 people. The Town can also provide you with detailed data logs so you can study your usage.

Here are some facts about the Town's water system:

- The Town provides water to customers both in and out of the town limits as part of a Joint Land Management agreement with Loudoun County over 30 years ago.
- The Town provides water to 1,826 homes (almost 4,500 people) using a series of 12 wells. The Town does not use any other body of water.
- The wells are spread out across a 30-mile network of many neighborhoods.
- The Town is under a Severe Drought. The wells are struggling to keep up with demand because the aquifer is low. In previous years, the wells have recovered by November from summer high usage. See pictures included in this post to learn more about wells, aquifers, and droughts.
- The Town provides 250,000 gallons of water a day (based on usage) which is 7.6 million gallons of water per month.

One question we heard was - can we truck water into Town? In the event of the most extreme water emergency, the Town could truck water in but each tanker truck could only hold 10,000 gallons of water so it would not be a long-term sustainable way of delivering water. Most likely families would be allocated limited water for only the most basic necessities (cooking, formula, etc.) Rest assured, this option is within our emergency plans, and we are prepared to make that decision if the time comes.

However - we feel confident that working together - everyone can be good stewards of the water. You can continue to use water as you typically need it - we just ask that you be "water smart." In most homes people are already doing what is recommended to do to help conserve, and we appreciate that greatly!

That means running full loads of the dishwasher and washing machine, do not hand wash dishes, scrape plates (don't rinse), turn off sink while brushing your teeth - and most importantly - check all of your fixtures for leaks or running toilets.

If you have additional questions or concerns, please email the Town Administrator at mhynes@roundhillva.org

Staff is also willing to meet with anyone who wants to learn more.