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PUBLIC NOTICE (December 8, 2023):

On Wed December 6, 2023 – the Town Council determined that Mandatory Water Conservation Phase One will remain in place until at least February when they can revisit the well data, meter data and drought conditions from December and January.

The good news is that the November Customer Water Meter Reads showed that the Utility System was able to meet the goal of reducing consumption by 10% or more. The reduction in demand has allowed the Town Wells to have clean consistent run times that can meet the lower demand, and not cycling on and off as frequently as they had in previous weeks.

The Town Council is encouraged by the first 30 days of well data and meter data. They are hopeful that the community can keep up the good work of being responsible and thoughtful in their water consumption.

Please keep in mind that the Town Council does not want anyone to have to skip showers or avoid washing laundry or any huge change to their lifestyles. Customers only need to move to sustainable use patterns that allow all households to operate as needed.

The best way to conserve water is to find ways to cut back on water use in small ways throughout your day. That includes only running full loads of the dishwasher or the washing machine, turning off the sink when you are brushing your teeth, and setting a time limit on your showers. The best way to save water is to find and fix all fixtures with any kind of leak. In the last month, the Utility Staff have encountered customers who did not realize that they had a leaky toilet or sink for days or weeks that were using upwards of 100 to 300 additional gallons of water per day (3,000 to 9,000 gallons more in a month).

Round Hill remains under a Severe Drought. The Town Well System is trying to recover from the 13th driest October since 1895 and the 29th driest “Jan to October” since 1895. Round Hill currently has a 10 to 15-inch rainfall deficit that could take months to fully recover (even with regular rain events). Round Hill needs everyone to do their part in conserving so that all 1,826 households can still get the water they need without having to enact further restrictions.

This is not a short-term emergency or situation. Customers need to prepare for long-term conservation efforts. It is unknown how long the drought will last. However, the Utility Staff feels confident that if everyone continues to use 15 gallons less a day (or more) then the Utility System can maintain the 10% reduction in average use which will allow the wells to maintain adequate water levels as we wait for the aquifers to slowly refill from any future rain events.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and understanding during this critical time. For more information visit <https://www.deq.virginia.gov/.../water-quantity/drought>

