

# “THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

December 2021

## It's That Time of Year!



December is a busy month for many people, and these days, a lot of that busyness centers on gift-giving. As we've mentioned in previous bulletins, the Town of North Kingstown is working hard to reduce the effects of polluted stormwater runoff. So we thought this might be an appropriate time to provide a list of unusual but thoughtful gifts that can benefit us all!

For the person who likes to garden or even a new homeowner, why not try a rain barrel? Diverting rooftop runoff to a rain barrel not only reduces the amount of water that flows to the street, but it also can be used for irrigation. It's estimated that a rain barrel can save 1300 gallons of water during the summer season.

For the auto-enthusiast, try a gift certificate for an oil change at a local garage or a car wash at a licensed facility. Keeping oil and soapy water out of stormdrains benefits us all.

For the dog-lover, a gift of a portable bag dispenser (such as Bags on Board®) that attaches to a dog's leash will ensure that Fido's waste is kept off the sidewalks and out of local waters. Now that's something we all can enjoy!

And for any children who enjoy feeding local waterfowl, buy them a disposable camera for those trips to the pond instead. Feeding geese and ducks causes them to concentrate in higher numbers than they would if they had to rely solely on natural food supplies, and results in large quantities of waste for local waters.



To learn more, visit: <http://www.ristormwatersolutions.org>



### IN SPITE OF FALL'S WARM WEATHER, WINTER IS ON THE WAY!!

NK Water offers the following helpful hints to homeowners preparing for the chill of winter:

- 1) If your home has a crawl space, invest in some heat tape. It uses a small amount of electricity but can save you lots of money and aggravation by preventing piping freeze-up.
- 2) Cover foundation vents and windows with foam blocks, insulation, or thickly folded newspaper to prevent cold winds from entering and freezing your pipes.
- 3) Turn off and drain in-ground sprinkler systems. An investment of a little time here can save you a huge repair bill in the spring.
- 4) Disconnect and drain all hoses from outside faucets.
- 5) Remove hose bib vacuum breakers from outside faucets.
- 6) If you can't isolate and drain all outside faucets (most homes have a dedicated shutoff for each outside faucet in the basement), then protect them with insulating blankets or covers.
- 7) Be sure you know where your main shut-off is located in the event of an emergency.
- 8) Don't forget about the swimming pool! Use environmentally friendly antifreeze products appropriately.



**Enjoy the Season!!!**

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## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE GROUNDWATER COMMITTEE PAGE ON THE NORTH KINGSTOWN WATER DEPARTMENT SECTION OF THE TOWN WEBSITE

The North Kingstown Groundwater Committee has been working hard to add more informative links in their section of our website. Please visit [www.northkingstown.org](http://www.northkingstown.org) and access this page through the Water Department section of the website. Detailed information about groundwater, the water cycle, and hydrology can be found there, as well as links to the US EPA, the Groundwater Foundation, the Groundwater Association, and the organization Water Footprint are there waiting to be explored. More to come, focused on Pollinator Awareness to follow.

## ***WATER IS LIMITED – NEVER WASTE***

According to the Alliance for Water Efficiency, a conservation watchdog group, the U.S. population grows by one person every 15 seconds. Our total water supply is finite. Human beings are highly creative, but we cannot create more water. Our cheapest source of new supply is using the water we already have more efficiently. Simple steps like running the clothes washer with a full load can make a difference.

The Alliance for Water Efficiency, has an exciting program underway called Never Waste. We encourage everyone to check out their website [www.neverwaste.org](http://www.neverwaste.org)



### ***Don't forget to sign up for WaterSmart***

NK Water is really excited about our new WaterSmart interactive program. Here you can access your account, check your water use, pay your bills, view innovative watersaving videos, sign up for alerts, perform your own water audit and take a customized water survey that will help you and your family save money and our precious drinking water resource. Contact our office at 268-1521 for help signing up for this exciting new free feature.