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# “THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

June 2024

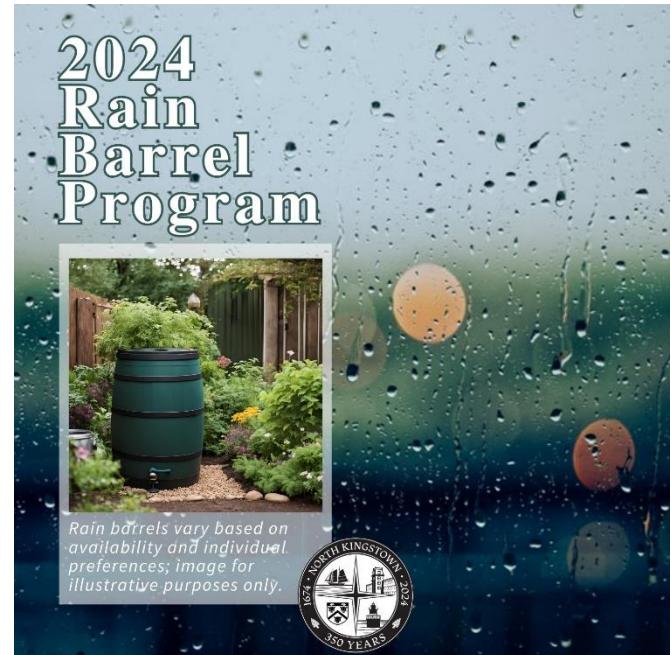
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## Rain Barrel Program for North Kingstown!

The North Kingstown Department of Water Supply in partnership with Wickford Lumber and support from the Conservation Commission will be bringing back the Rain Barrel program where we will provide North Kingstown residents a discount on rain barrels. As mentioned in previous Puddle articles as well as the RIDEM and EPA websites, rain barrels offer a variety of benefits including:

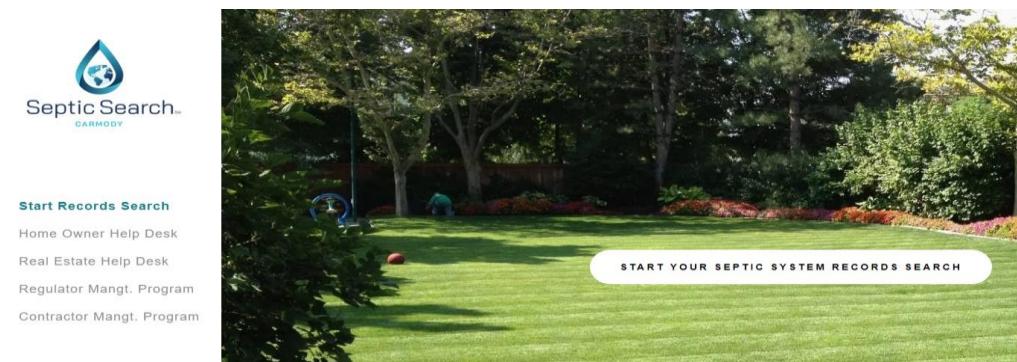
- Decreasing the cost of water on the consumer through decreasing water usage (EPA estimates 1 rain barrel can save roughly 1300 gallons of water during a summer season)
- Decreasing stormwater pollution on local water bodies. As water flows longer distances over impervious surfaces such as your roof, roads, or sidewalk, it steadily picks up various pollutants on its journey (such as oils, dirt, pesticides, and other pollutants). This polluted water makes its way to our local water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes and bay) decreasing the water quality in those areas. As you could imagine, this is especially true during heavier rain events. Through having a rain barrel, we can decrease the distance traveled for water thus decreasing the nutrient loading into our local water bodies.
- Decreasing water demand during the higher water usage period. The summer is the higher water usage time of the year primarily due to irrigation. Through having a rain barrel, this is beneficial to the local water supply through decreasing the stress on the water supply during higher usage periods.

When purchasing the rain barrel at Wickford Lumber, the Water Department will offer a \$75 discount for one of the three types of rain barrels sold for North Kingstown residents only (discount applied at checkout). North Kingstown residents are limited to one Water Department discount per North Kingstown residential property and a maximum of fifty rain barrels sold in total.



## **Septic Search: A way to verify septic system type and Pump out/Inspection history**

As you probably know, the town of North Kingstown adopted an ordinance in 1999 that requires all property owners to either inspect or pump out their septic system every three years. Created to protect public health and the environment, the ordinance protects our groundwater aquifers and coastal areas from the negative effects from older and failing septic systems through making sure homeowners regularly service their septic systems. Losing track of or forgetting about previous services happen, but there is a new tool designed to help with this called Septic Search by Carmody. Carmody is the database many water departments in Rhode Island use to keep track of all septic service data (either pump out or inspections). Septic Search allows property owners to look up their septic service history (<https://septicsearch.com/>). This provides the homeowner a chance to make sure their septic servicing is up to date or if they need to update the water department of their last inspection with proof of pump out (such as a scanned copy of the receipt used just for verification of service). Since not every company who performs the pump outs updates the Carmody database, the ordinance puts the responsibility of updating the water department on the property owner. One of the main methods of knowing it was time for a pump out or inspection was through a post card sent by the Water Department at the due date. We are still keeping this method in place, but we want to also provide another avenue to keep track of your septic service history. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to us at the water department.



### **North Kingstown Water Meter Replacement Program**

**It is important to both the North Kingstown Department of Water Supply and our water customers that water meters be maintained. In this regard, water meters are replaced on a routine basis. Meter replacements help ensure that water bills provide accurate information to the customer about their water consumption. If you have received a letter from the water department about replacing your water meter and/or a door hanger, please do not delay in responding. Your water bill will be estimated and estimations are not accurate gallons used. Over time, estimating multiple bills can cause a larger water bill once we replace the meter and get an actual reading off of the meter. If you have a "W" off to the left of the date read on your water statement that means that the water department is estimating your usage. Please call the water department at 401-268-1521 or email [kbarbera@northkingstownri.gov](mailto:kbarbera@northkingstownri.gov) to set up a meter replacement.**