

Georgetown Water Department

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For Georgetown News

START CONSERVING WATER NOW

Georgetown Water Department has received its new WATER WITHDRAWAL REGISTRATION STATEMENT from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This Registration combined with the WATER WITHDRAWAL PERMIT regulates the amount of water the Water Department is allowed to pump from the PARKER RIVER BASIN and the new registration also dictates limitations on how that water is distributed.

The DEP, will require the Water Department customers use no more than 65 Gallons/Person /Day (800 CF/person/billing cycle). New house construction has all but stopped and Parker River Clean Water Association, Rivers Instream Flow and Levels Stewards and other Environmental groups also want to limit the water pumped. On the other hand our chemical, power, fuel and maintenance costs even chocolate are going up, the same as yours.

We try to curb our expenses as much as we can. We buy our chemicals through a consortium. Four of our last five vehicles have been salvage from other departments or insurance replacements. We do as much of our own design, construction & repairs as we can. We are working on a new chemical treatment system that will help us prolong the life of the filter media and use less of the more expensive chemicals while making better water throughout the system. The Water Department is also trying to use less water ourselves by flushing the entire system ONLY in the Spring this year and with better water quality, less random flushing.

What does this mean for Georgetown Water Customers?

With the Finance Committee and Department of Revenue is requiring that the Department raise its rates to meet current and future needs of the water system with NO dependence on the Town's General Funds. This was not an easy decision for us, but with the environmental pressure to pump less, the new house market stalled, a water system that has major parts that are over 70 years old and in need of repair or replacement plus the fact that the cost of fuel, electricity, insurance and everything else is going up, it was inevitable.

It means that we have to raise more money while selling less water. Water Rates are going up. We need to raise 20% more revenue on 25% less water. Starting with the July billing period the System Development Fees for new homes will be \$3,500.00 (a 40% increase)

The Basic Fee for Water Service will remain at \$40.00 / quarterly billing cycle This is added to the new rates as follows, and EVERYONE will still be entitled to the 10% Early Payment Discount.

The new Water Rate for those low water customers using from 1 to 2500 cubic feet/billing cycle will be the \$40.00 plus \$3.95/ 100 cubic feet of water used, or between \$43.95 (a 4% increase) and \$138.75 (a 50% increase)

For those consumers not too careful with their water, using from 2,600 to 5,000 cubic feet/billing cycle the rate will be \$4.95/ 100 cubic feet or between \$143.70 (a 51% increase) and \$262.50 (a 65% increase).

For those using between 5,100 and 10,000 cubic feet/billing cycle will be charged \$5.95/ 100 cubic feet or between \$268.45 (a 66% increase) and \$560.00 (an 87% increase).

For those with green lawns using between 10,100 and 15,000 cubic feet/billing cycle will be charged \$5.95/ 100 cubic feet or between \$565.95 (an 87% increase) and \$857.50 (a 93% increase).

For those with uncontrolled irrigation or unrepaired leaks (Check those toilet tanks), using between 15,100 and 20,000 cubic feet/billing cycle will be charged \$5.95/ 100 cubic feet or between \$863.45 (an 93% increase) and \$1155.00 (a 93% increase).

For those commercial accounts that use between 20,100 and 125,000 cubic feet/billing cycle will be charged \$5.95/ 100 cubic feet or between \$1160.95 (a 94% increase and \$7402.50 (an 84% increase).