
“THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

March 2021

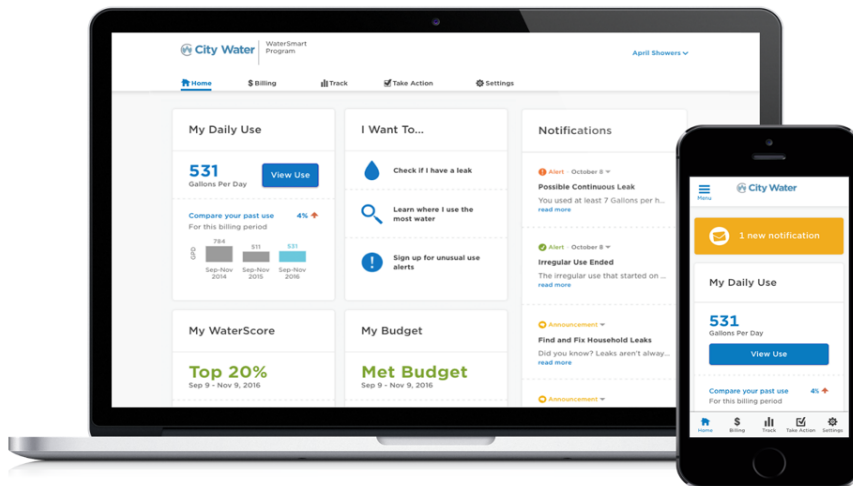


**North
Kingstown**
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The WaterSmart Portal will help you track your home's water use at macro and micro levels.



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Hydrant Flushing - Critical Maintenance or just a waste of water?

Most of us have probably seen a Water Department vehicle parked along the side of a road in town, adjacent to a fire hydrant that is open and flowing; water spraying into the street and running quickly down a nearby storm drain. You might wonder what's going on here? This seems like an awful waste of water in an age when water shortages and water conservation are hot topics on news shows and in newspapers from California to Texas to Florida and New England alike. We understand and appreciate your concerns, it's refreshing to see folks here in North Kingstown and beyond really begin to grapple with the idea that water is indeed among our most precious resources. But, once you understand the reasoning behind an aggressive annual hydrant flushing program such as we utilize here at the North Kingstown Water Department, you will see that this is anything but wasteful. Annual hydrant flushing, you see, is all about eradicating troublesome sediment accumulation. Sediment, fine particles that settle out of the water over time and built up slowly in water mains, can become a home for bacteria and other biological entities that can adversely affect water quality. If enough sediment accumulates in a main, these "little critters" can essentially shield themselves from the effects of any disinfectant added to the water. In time, bacteria and its kin can accumulate and grow until they form a biofilm, in essence a colony of unwanted visitors that can directly cause bacterial contamination of our community's wonderfully pristine drinking water. A secondary, but equally valuable by-product of a well-planned flushing program is the exercising and if necessary, subsequent repair of the more than 1000 fire hydrants in town that are a critical component of public safety and fire protection for all of us. So, as you can see, a well thought out flushing program, just like a smartly designed backflow prevention plan is all about protecting the health and welfare of you, our customers, friends, and neighbors.

Concerned About Flooding?

Is your property in the Special Flood Hazard Area? Do you need flood insurance? What are the rules for building in the floodplain? If you would like to know the answers to these questions or want to learn more about any of these topics, the Town of North Kingstown has information available that may help. Check our website at <http://northkingstown.org/212/Flooding-Flood-Insurance-Information>. You will find information about the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), review evacuation route mapping as well as the Flood Insurance Rate Maps and find out about flood preparedness and protection. The web page includes helpful links to other state and federal resources as well. The town also has copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates on all buildings constructed or substantially improved in the floodplain since 1995. The North Kingstown Free Library also has a repository of flood-related information available. You can call the Planning Department with any floodplain questions at 268-1571.

If you note on your water bill that you are receiving an extra \$25 service charge, that is for a manual read of your meter. Please call the water dept at 268-1521 to discuss a meter upgrade & charge removal.