



Wareham Water Well House Newsletter

Summer/Fall 2020

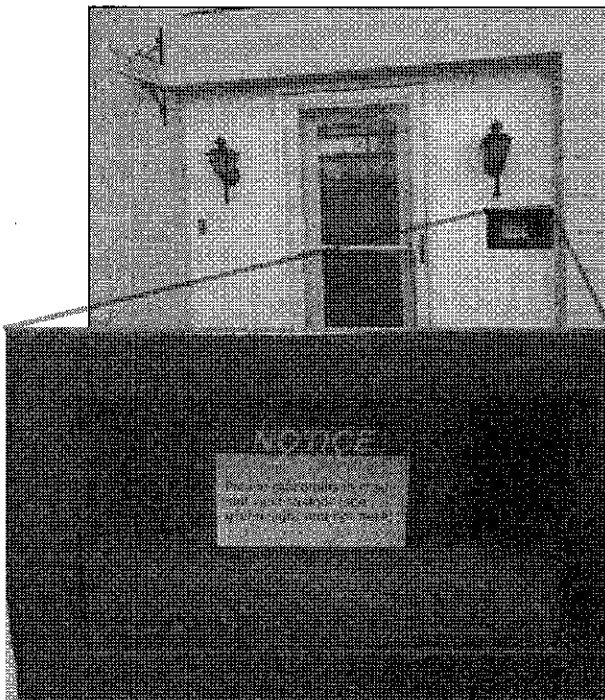
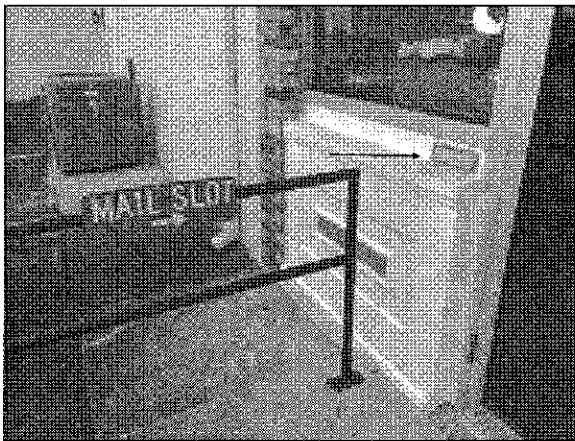
2550 Cranberry Hwy
Wareham, MA 02571

Any questions? Call Us!
PHONE: 508-295-0450

After Hours Drop Box

Many people use the after hours drop mail slot box to pay their bills. The drop mail slot is located on the handicap ramp and labeled as such. Just a couple of reminders:

1. Please do not place cash in the drop box as it is considered an unsecured location. Check, money order, and similar are the best methods to pay bills using the drop box.
2. Once in a while, patrons will place bills in the clerk treasurer box which is not located on the handicap ramp. We have placed a notice not to do this as this box is not checked regularly, so payments can sit there for a long time before they are found.



Reminders

1.) Filling Pool

Many people use tap water to fill their pool. A friendly reminder, before filling the pool, check to make sure there is no visible iron and manganese (i.e. yellow or orange in color) and periodically check while filling the pool. Iron and manganese will not hurt the pool, but may shorten filter life and may stain the walls of your pool. We can work with you to address above prior to filling pool.

2.) Chlorine and Laundry

If you are receiving colored water which periodically happens on a transient basis, do not do laundry, especially whites. Also do not use bleach as this will aggravate any potential staining. In the event that you do a load of laundry that gets iron staining, the Water Department will provide a bottle of iron out which typically removes the iron stains.

3.) Lawn Watering

Attached is a "Healthy Lawn, Happy Summer" flyer to help you optimize your lawn watering. US EPA has a wealth of information on lawns which can be found here on the web: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoors>.

In general, lawns need 1 to 1.5 inches of water per week and can go dormant without dying. Watering more than this generally is a waste, and while we don't mind you supporting Wareham Water we do not recommend this practice. More tips can be found in the attached flyer and EPA's website. So check it out and talk with your landscaping professional and perform an irrigation audit!

4.) Hot Water Heaters

It is a good idea to periodically (annually if possible) to flush out your hot water heater and remove sediment that may build up in your hot water heater. Sediment can reduce the efficiency of your hot water heater. Talk with your licensed plumber how this can be done.

5.) Opening a Building After Extended Shutdown

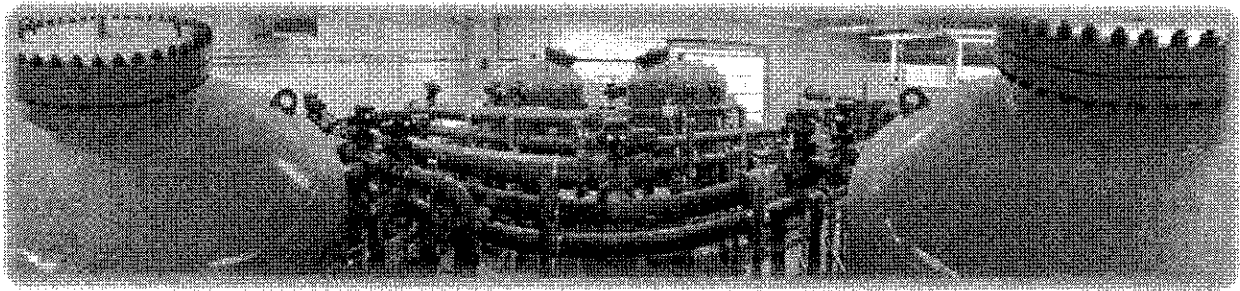
If you are opening a home (for the summer) or after the COVID 19 shutdown, the CDC has 8 steps to take before your building reopens to avoid Legionella issues. See link below or input "CDC" and "Building Water Systems" in your search engine.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/building-water-system.html?fbclid=IwAR0-h3OAXNYfi3USSxxqeUT-MIDGAoiN6lCDk-Qw2R0lJ4TFy3ar8dfGihM>

Maple Springs Water Purification Plant

The Maple Springs Water Purification Plant (MS WPP) is expected to be completed and placed online in September 2020. This is one of the largest projects that Wareham Water has endeavored since the inception of the Wareham Fire District in 1907. The MS WPP is one large step forward in Wareham Water solving the colored water issue (light yellow to orange in nature) that residents have received periodically and is associated with staining on bathtubs, toilets and sinks. The color comes from dissolved iron and manganese which naturally occurs in the raw water of the well which transforms into a particle that colors the water. The MS WPP will now filter water that comes from Maple Springs Well Nos 1, 2, 3, and 4 as well as Maple Park Well No. 9 and reduce the iron and manganese that colors the water from these wells. Residents should see a marked improvement of the water quality they receive over time. It should be noted that this improvement will be gradual. Wareham Water has been using wells that have placed roughly 2,000 pounds (slightly less than curb weight of a Toyota Corolla) annually of iron and manganese into the distribution system for the last 20 or more years. Hence it will take some time for the distribution system to clear out of these solids. Thus, transient colored water events could still occur periodically. However, the voting body of the District has taken the first step forward in addressing this issue. **For that, we thank you for your support!** Further steps Wareham Water plans on taking in the future are building a transmission main from the Seawood Springs and Southline wells to the MS WPP to filter that water as well.

Often Wareham Water is told that the residents do not like the taste or smell of the chlorine that is used as secondary disinfectant in the distribution system. It is a regulatory requirement by the state to maintain biostability in the distribution and one way to do this is by adding chlorine to ensure it remains safe. With the construction of the MS WPP, the filter system will remove iron and manganese which acts as a demand on chlorine. Hence, Wareham Water will have more control over the amount of chlorine that is required to be dosed to maintain a chlorine residual out in the distribution system. Coupled with this, the MS WPP will be using ultraviolet disinfection, the first in the State of Massachusetts to meet the disinfection requirements of the Groundwater Rule without the use of chlorine once all permits are filed. Wareham Water will continue to manage the use of chlorine to minimize the impact on you the consumer. In case you did not see it, in the last issue of the Well House which can be found on the District website, we offered methods that you can implement to reduce the chlorine smell or taste at your tap. Check it out.



Certified Operator

The MassDEP rates all Public Water Systems (PWSs) for the license level required to run that PWS. The licenses range from Very Small System (VSS) to a level 4 operator. The licenses are sequential (e.g. an operator cannot skip to a level 4 before obtain licenses 1, 2, and 3), and require the operator to pass a 35 hour or more training course for a distribution course, and a 35 hour training course for treatment T1 and T2 licenses, and another 35 hour or more training course for T3 and T4 licenses. The District is rated by the MassDEP as a Distribution 3 or D3 system and Treatment 2 or T2 system. In addition, the District operators must be licensed for the following: Commercial Driver License, two classes of hoisting licenses, backflow and survey certification, CPR trained, flagman certification, hot works certification, and certified to work on asbestos cement pipe. While not all operators currently have these licenses or certificates, most are working toward them. In short, the staff operating your system are dedicated to making sure you obtain the highest quality water possible while safely working on the assets of the District.

Solar on MS WPP

Through a MassDEP Gap grant, which covered roughly 2/3 of the construction costs, a 84 KW (DC) solar system was installed on the MS WPP roof in June 2020. This is estimated to generate about 10% of the total energy required by the MS WPP. Wareham Water continues as part of our mission to look for ways to maintain cost effective and carbon neutral ways to power our systems. Currently we generate about 75% of our current electrical needs through photovoltaic systems.



HEALTHY **LAWN** HAPPY SUMMER!

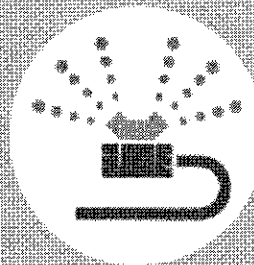
Each of us makes a big impact in Wareham.

Reduce Lawn Watering

Eliminating or reducing summer lawn watering makes a big difference. Wareham households that water their lawns in the summer use an average of 1,900 gallons per week. That's like running your shower for 12 hours!

The fact is, *Wareham lawns don't need much water to stay healthy.* Overwatering your lawn can cause shallow roots and make it susceptible to pests, disease, and drought.

LAWN WATERING



1,900 Gallons
per week

SHOWERING



12 Hours!

Water Only With Rain

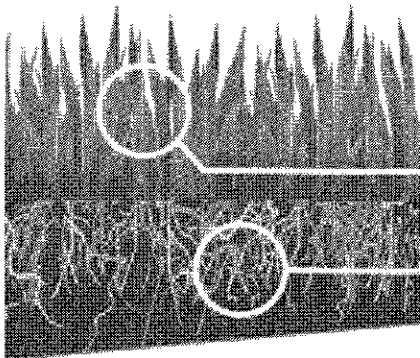
OR

Water Wisely

In most years, we get enough rain to maintain a healthy summer lawn. *Healthy grass can go dormant (turn golden) during dry periods but it is not dead* and will green up with the return of rain. Going

dormant creates more drought resistance and deeper roots, making a healthier, less sensitive lawn.

Dormant Grass



HEALTHY GRASS

DEEPER ROOTS

Many of the Wareham homes already let their lawn go dormant each summer. *Join them by letting your lawn be healthy and natural while saving water, money, and time.*

A healthy established lawn will likely not need irrigation. However, if you do water your lawn, follow the tips below to water wisely.

- 1 Water before 9am or after 5pm to avoid evaporation.
- 2 Water infrequently and deeply to encourage deep roots.
- 3 Keep grass long to stay healthy (at least 2.5 to 3 inches).
- 4 Leave grass clippings on your lawn to keep soil moist.
- 5 Use a WaterSense-labeled controller on automatic irrigation systems.
- 6 Tell your lawn care crew to follow these guidelines.



Save water for your community and the Environment by watering your lawn wisely or not at all.

Please visit this website for more information: www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoors