



# Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 39 Issue 3 May and June 2020

The Town Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens; to inform, to apprise, and to clarify the issues and undertakings before the Town Government. Citizen feedback is encouraged.

Contact the Town Office at 1033 Locust Street weekdays between the hours of 8:30 am and 5:00 pm or by mail

P.O. Box 250

Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087

Fax: 869-6166

Police: 868-1012

Website: [www.stephenscity.org](http://www.stephenscity.org)

## **The Newtown Heritage Festival has been cancelled this year**

### **- CHANGES TO TRASH PICKUP EFFECTIVE JULY 1st -**

American Disposal with whom the Town of Stephens City has contracted with for the past several years has opted not to renew our trash and recycling contract.

The town has gone out to bid for proposals and have selected Waste Management for our next trash pickup provider. Due to changes in the economy we will be unable to continue to provide recycling services. There was no way that the town would be able to afford recycling service without a large tax increase and given the current global pandemic we simply could not justify that.

With the change in companies the town will also be switching to provided cans (available in either 64 or 96 gallon) which are picked up by a hydraulic arm on the trash truck. Should you wish or require additional containers you may rent them for \$1 per can.

**TRASH NOT PUT INTO CONTAINERS WILL NOT BE COLLECTED**

### **- IMPORTANT TAX CHANGES -**

Stephens City is eliminating personal property taxes for its residents! In an effort to simplify the way that our town collects tax revenue we are preparing for a number of tax changes effective July 1st. We will not be billing personal property taxes for vehicles housed within the town. This will help to eliminate the confusion that occurs when receiving both a personal property tax bill from the town as well as Frederick County. Instead we will be increasing several other taxes to make up the difference. This is not a tax increase. We are essentially shifting from personal property tax to several other smaller taxes which should bring us to roughly the same amount of revenue that we currently generate.

We will be increasing real estate tax from 10 cents to 14 cents, meals tax from 5% to 8%. We will be increasing lodging tax from 5% to 8%. We will be increasing cigarette tax from 25 cents to 45 cents. We are increasing utility electric consumption tax to a flat rate of \$3 a month. We are increasing gas utility tax to a base rate of \$1 and .05 per ccf. These utility consumption taxes will be collected by your utility companies and remitted directly to the town.

Our overall goal was to try and find more efficient ways of collecting taxes while also making them easier for residents to pay. The only tax bills you will receive from the town are now real estate and the vehicle decal fee. Should you have questions please contact town staff at the office and we would be happy to help.

Kind regards,

Mike Majher  
Town Manager



***So when will I get my tax bill?***

Real Estate Taxes and Vehicle Decal Fees will be mailed out to residents in early June. These taxes will be due July 5th. They can be paid through our website, over the telephone, via the United States Postal Service, or by leaving payment in the drop box located at our offices found on Locust Street.

**MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY TO BE HELD ONLINE**

Please keep an eye on our website and town facebook page for more information on our annual memorial day wreath laying ceremony. We are making preparations to stream this event in lieu of our regular gathering. Stephens City honors the sacrifices made by our service men and women! Please join us for our virtual event!

# Town Calendar of Events

**May 2020**

May 5 - Town Council Meeting 6:00 pm  
 May 12 - Personnel Committee 4:30 pm  
 May 15 - Heritage Festival Comm 7:15 pm  
 May 19 - Historic Preservation Comm 5:00 pm  
 May 19 - Beautification Board 5:30pm  
 May 20 - Public Works Committee 4:30 pm  
 May 20 - Ordinance Committee 5:30pm  
**May 25 - Memorial Day Office Closed**  
 May 25 - Parks & Rec Commission 5:30 pm  
 May 26 - Special Council Meeting 6:00 pm  
 May 26 - Planning Commission 7:30 pm  
 May 27 - Finance Committee 4:00 pm  
 May 28 - Public Safety Committee 5:00 pm

**June 2020**

**June 1 - Water/Sewer bills due**  
 June 2 - Town Council Meeting 6:00 pm.  
**June 9 - Water Shut-Off Date**  
 June 9 - Personnel Committee 4:30 pm  
 June 16 - Historic Preservation Commission 5:00 pm  
 June 16 - Beautification Board 5:30 pm  
 June 17 - Public Works Committee 4:30 pm  
 June 17 - Ordinance Committee 5:00 pm  
 June 19 - Heritage Festival Comm 7:15 pm  
 June 24 - Finance Committee 5:43 pm  
 June 25 - Public Safety Committee 5:00 pm  
 June 29 - Parks & Rec Commission 5:30pm  
 June 30 - Planning Commission 7:30pm

## Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills are due on **Monday, June 1, 2020 by 5:00 pm.** After 5:00 pm, a 10% penalty will be applied to late accounts. On **Tuesday, June 9, 2020** service will be discontinued for delinquency. An administrative fee of \$50 will be applied to the account on **Monday, June 10, 2019** at 5:00 pm. The \$50 fee plus the full amount of the bill must

be paid before service can be re-stored. A drop box is available at the Town Office for check or money order payments only. **Do not put cash in the drop box.** Online payments can be made at the Town's website with Discover, Visa or MasterCard. If you pay a bill online after the due date, you are still responsible for the 10% penalty and if

the bill is paid after the shut-off date, the \$50 administrative fee will need to be paid as well, prior to re-connection.

**WE CURRENTLY  
ACCEPT PAYMENTS  
OVER THE PHONE**

# Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

## Town of Stephens City

### INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2019 is designed to provide you with valuable information about your drinking water quality. We are committed to providing you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water, and we want you to understand the efforts we make to protect your water supply. The quality of your drinking water meets all state and federal requirements administered by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH).

If you have questions about this report, want additional information about any aspect of your drinking water, or want to know how to participate in decisions that may affect the quality of your drinking water, please contact:

Mr. Michael Majlber, Town Manager at 540-869-3087

You can obtain additional information by attending Town Council meetings held at 7:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month in the Town Council Chambers.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Substances (referred to as contaminants) in source water may come from septic systems, discharges from domestic or industrial wastewater treatment facilities, agricultural and farming activities, urban storm water runoff, residential uses, and many other types of activities. Water from surface sources is treated to make it drinkable while groundwater may or may not have any treatment.

All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immune-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

### SOURCES AND TREATMENT OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is surface water purchased from the Frederick Water and obtained from the quarries located on the west side Stephens City. Water is distributed to the Town from master meter connections to the Frederick Water system through variously sized distribution pipes. Storage for the Town is provided by Frederick Water.

All water supplied to the Town undergoes treatment. This treatment is accomplished at the James H. Diehl Water Treatment Plant and the James T. Anderson Water Treatment Plant. The water is treated prior to entering the distribution system and consists of chemical addition, flocculation, sedimentation and filtration to remove turbidity, chlorination to disinfect the water and fluoridation to aid in reducing tooth decay.

### SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

A source water assessment for the Frederick County Service Authority was completed by the Virginia Department of Health (VDH) on March 7, 2018. This assessment determined that the Authority's Stephens City water source might be susceptible to contamination because it is surface water exposed to a wide array of contaminants at varying concentrations. Changing hydrologic, hydraulic and atmospheric conditions promote migration of contaminants from land use activities of concern within the assessment area. More specific information may be obtained by Frederick Water at 540-868-1061.

### QUALITY OF YOUR DRINKING WATER

Your drinking water is routinely monitored according to Federal and State Regulations for a variety of contaminants. The table on the next page shows the results of our monitoring for the period of January to December 31, 2019. However, the state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data, though accurate, is more than one year old.

### DEFINITIONS

In the table and elsewhere in this report you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. The following definitions are provided to help you better understand these terms:

**Action Level (AL):** The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Level 1 Assessment:** A Level 1 Assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

**Level 2 Assessment:** A Level 2 Assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine, if possible, why an E-coli MCL violation has occurred and / or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL):** The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

**Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG):** The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

**Nephelometric Turbidity Unit (NTU) - A** measure of the clarity of water. Turbidity in excess of 5 NTU is just noticeable to the average person.

**Non-detects (ND):** Lab analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present

**Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L):** One part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

**Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L):** One part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L): A measure of the radioactivity in water.

**Treatment Technique (TT):** A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

**Variances and exemptions:** State or EPA permission not to meet an MCL or a treatment technique under certain conditions.

## WATER QUALITY RESULTS

We constantly monitor for various contaminants in the water supply to meet all regulatory requirements. The tables list only those contaminants that had some level of detection. Many other contaminants have been analyzed but were not present or were below the detection limits of the lab equipment.

**Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCL's)** are set at very stringent levels by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In developing the standards, EPA assumes that the average adult drinks 2 liters of water each day throughout a 70-year life span. EPA generally sets MCL's at levels that will result in no adverse health effects for some contaminants or a one-in-ten-thousand to one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect for other contaminants.

## REGULATED IN THE DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM:

Lead and Copper					
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile # Samples > AL	Exceedance	Date of Sample
Lead ppb	0	AL=15	<2	No	2017
Copper ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	One sample exceeded the AL.	No	2017
No sample exceeded the AL.					
Disinfection Byproducts					
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample
Halooxetic Acids (HAA5) ppb	NA	60	11-29	No	Quarterly 2019
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ppb	NA	80	16-34	No	Quarterly 2019
By-product of drinking water disinfection					
Disinfection Residual					
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample
Chlorine ppm	4	4	1.42-2.20	No	Monthly
Typical Source of Contamination: By-product of drinking water chlorination					

## Lead Contaminants

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Town of Stephens City is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on the lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

## Additional contaminants monitored in the Fredrick Water supplied water:

Contaminant / Unit of Measurement		Turbidity <sup>1</sup>				Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
		Highest Level Found	Lowest Monthly % <0.3 NTU	Diethyl	Anderson			
Turbidity NTU	NA	TP <sup>2</sup>	0.26	0.12	100	No	2019	Soil Runoff
Inorganic Contaminants <sup>3</sup>								
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)		Exceedance	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination	
Barium ppm	2	2	0.047	0.06	No	10/2019 Diethyl	Discharge of drilling wastes, Discharge from metal refineries, Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride ppm	4	4	0.56 - 1.04		No	monthly	Water additive which promotes strong teeth, Erosion of natural deposits, discharge from fertilizers and aluminum factories	
Nitrate ppm	10	10	2.01	2.34	No	10/2019 Diethyl	Runoff from fertilizer use, Leaching from septic tanks, sewerage, Erosion of natural deposits	

Radiological Contaminants				
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)	Violation
Alpha emitters pCi/L	0	15	2.0	No
Beta emitters pCi/L	0	50*	2.7	No
Combined Radium pCi/L	0	5	<0.7	No
Total Organic Carbon				
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Removal Ratio (Range)	Exceedance
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	Diethyl 1.0 Anderson 1.0	No
Typical Source of Contamination: Natural present in the environment				

<sup>1</sup> Turbidity is a measure of the cloudiness of the water. We monitor it because it is a good indicator of our water quality and the effectiveness of the filtration process.

<sup>2</sup> Turbidity TP = 1 NTU. Max: ≤ 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of all samples tested.

<sup>3</sup> The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/yr. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.

Sodium level ranged from 5.6 mg/L to 13.6 mg/L.

## VIOLATION INFORMATION

-5 violations: Failure to report the Monthly Operation Reports by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for the months of March, April, June, October and November 2019. (REMED/ATED)

-Failure to return the Consumer Notification Certification Form for the 2018 CCR in 2019. (REMED/ATED)

The waterworks owners prepared this Drinking Water Quality Report with the assistance and approval of the Virginia Department of Health (VDH). Please call if you have questions.

Signature:   
Date: 5/12/2020