



Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 42 Issue 4

July and August 2023



HAPPY



Fourth of July



INDEPENDENCE DAY

The Town Newsletter is published by the Town Government of Stephens City for its citizens; to inform 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:

PO Box 250
Stephens City, VA 22655

Phone: 869-3087
Fax: 869-6166
Police: 868-1012
Website: www.stephenscity.gov



A big **THANK YOU** to town resident Carole Miernick! Carole graciously volunteered her time and talents to upcycle these flower pots by painting them with a vibrant and patriotic styling. Carole serves on the town beautification committee. Kelly Thatcher and Beth Fravel offered their green thumbs in planting some lovely flowers to brighten up the town park

If you are interested in serving on the committee. Drop by the town office and provide your contact information.

Water and Sewer Billing

Beginning in August the base water rate will increase by 1%. The increase was approved last fiscal year to take affect this fiscal year. The increased rate is to cover the rising costs due to inflation .

Route 11 Yard Crawl

August 12, 2023

7:00 am

Clean out your attics, your closets and your basements! Have a sidewalk sale! Call your civic organizations and plan the day as a fundraiser!

The 18th annual event spans 43 miles winding down the Shenandoah Valley from Stephens City to New Market. Exits 307 through 264



For more information about spaces in Stephens City, please contact the Stephens City Lions Club 540-247-7662 Or scyardcrawl@gmail.com

National Night Out

Tuesday, August 1, 2023

6:00 - 9:00 pm Laurel Ridge Community College



National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes law enforcement-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. National Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community.

Join us for:

- * Food & Ice Cream * Music * Law Enforcement K-9
- * Law Enforcement Officers and Vehicle
- * Fire/Rescue & EMS Apparatus * Gun Safety Education
- * Child Safety Seat Check * Fun Kid Activities * Door Prizes



Brought to you by: Stephens City Police Department,
Laurel Ridge Community College Police Department, Middletown Police Department



Trash must be in Waste Management cans. Cans must be put away by Thurs. or we will pick them up!

- TAX NOTICE -

Real Estate and or Personal Property tax bills are due July 17, 2023. Taxes can be paid via cash, check, money order or credit card. Should you have any questions regarding your tax bills, please contact the town treasurer at 540-869-3087. If anyone is interested in signing up for tax bills to be sent via email, please email the Town Treasurer at srickards@stephenscityva.us

Town Calendar of Events

July 2023

- July 4 **Town Offices Closed for Independence Day**
- July 11 **Town Council 6:00 pm**
- July 17 **Town Taxes are Due**
- July 25 **Council Work Session 6:00 pm**
- July 25 **Planning Commission 7:30 pm**

August 2023

- Aug 1 **National Night Out 6:00-9:00pm**
- Aug 7 **Water Payments Due**
- Aug 8 **Town Council Meeting 6:00 pm**
- Aug 22 **Council Work Session 6:00 pm**
- Aug 29 **Planning Commission 7:30 pm**

** All meetings subject to change without notice with the exception of the Town Council meeting.*

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Stephens City: Public Water System ID #2069634

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2022 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. Michele Majher, 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. Immunocompromised 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 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. Dichtl 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 January 26, 2021. 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 1 to December 31, 2022. 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: 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.

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

WATER QUALITY RESULTS

We consistently 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 (MCLs) 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 MCLs 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:

Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	50 th Percentile # Samples > AL	Exceedance	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Lead ppb	0	AL=15	<2	No	July 2020	Erosion of household plumbing Plymouth Erosion of natural deposits
Copper ppb	1.3	AL=1.3	No numeric exceedance	No	July 2020	Corrosion of household plumbing Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts						
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Halooacetic Acid (HAA5) ppb	NA	60	12	No	July 2022	By-product of disinfecting water distribution
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ppb	NA	80	17	No	July 2022	By-product of disinfecting water distribution
Disinfection Residual						
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Chlorine ppb	4	4	2.11 (1.00-2.3)	No	Monthly	By-product of disinfecting 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:

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.
Turbidity TT = 1 NTU Max.; < 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of all samples tested.

*The MCL for benzene is 4 microg/L. EPA considers 50 µCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles. Sodium level ranged from 6.72 mg/L to 14.9 mg/L.

Turbidity*							
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG/MCL	Highest Level Found	Lowest % NTU	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination	
Turbidity NTU	NA	TT ¹ 0.14	100	No	Monthly	Soil Runoff	
Inorganic Contaminants¹							
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG/MCL	Level Found (Range)	Exceedance	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination	
Berium ppm	2	0.037	0.063	No	2022 Ditch 2022 Anderson	Discharge of drilling wastes Discharge from rock facilities Erosion of natural deposits	
Fluoride ppm	4	0.43	0.60	No	2022 Ditch 2022 Anderson	Water additive which promotes strong teeth. Erosion of natural deposits Discharge from rock facilities Erosion of natural deposits	
Silica ppm	10	2.92	2.56	No	2022 Ditch 2022 Anderson	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Erosion of natural deposits	
Radiological Contaminants							
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG/MCL	Level Found (Range)	Exceedance	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination	
Alpha emitters	0	15	0.9	<0.36	No	8/2020 Ditch 2022 Anderson	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta emitters	0	50*	1.9	2.3	No	06/2020 Ditch 2021 Anderson	Discharge of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium PCCL	0	5	0.9	0.2	No	06/2020 Ditch 2021 Anderson	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon							
Contaminant	MCLG/MCL	Removal Ratio	Exceedance	Violation	Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination	
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.01	1.07	Quarterly in 2022	Natural present in the environment	

VIOLATION INFORMATION

The Town of Stephens City was in full compliance with all water quality, monitoring, and reporting requirements, and no violations occurred during the calendar year 2022.

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: 6/21/23