



Stephens City Newsletter

Volume 40 Issue 3 May and June 2021

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

REMINDER ON STEPHENS CITY TOWN TAXES

Tax bills will be mailed out soon so please keep an eye out for your Real Estate taxes as well as a bill for Vehicle Decal Fees. As a reminder, last year the town removed personal property taxes for individuals. Now only the vehicle decal fee remains. If you have a mortgage on your property it is very likely that your mortgage company handles the payment of the real estate taxes. You will still receive a copy of the bill that is sent to your mortgage company so that you may have a copy for your own records.

Additionally the town staggers its tax billing so that **Frederick County taxes are due June 5th** and **Stephens City taxes are due July 5th**. You may pay your bill here at the town office, by mail, or through our website at "www.stephenscity.org/payments"

YARD SALE PERMITS

As the warm weather approaches so do yard sales! Remember to get a yard sale permit from the town office. There is no fee for these permits.



TRASH CANS

Please remember to bring in your trash cans! We have received many complaints about trash being left outside. Please put your can out Tuesday before pickup and bring it back in Wednesday after collection. Help us keep our town safe and clean!



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING

We have had a number of citizens contact us about getting involved in the community. Town staff would be happy to help you get plugged in with local organizations that improve our small town. We also have a few openings on some of the town committees for those who would like to participate in the town government and help shape the town we live and work in. We're only a phone call or short walk away!

POLICE DEPT HOURS

The Stephens City Police department is not a 24hr department. If you do not receive an answer please dial the Frederick County Sheriff's Office, or in cases of an emergency 911.





MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

This year our we will be hosting our Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans Memorial located at the Stephens City School **Saturday, May 29th at 10am**. There will be some seating available for those who wish to attend this event in person as well as an online stream for those who would prefer to join us remotely. We look forward to honoring those who gave their lives to preserve our freedom together as a town.

Rt. 11 Yard Crawl Vendor Space

The 2021 Rt. 11 Yard Crawl is Saturday, August 14. The Stephens City Lions Club is selling vendor space at the Newtown Commons on Main Street & the Old School Grounds on South Main Street. 16x20ft spaces are \$20 and we recommend you reserve your space early. Pick up an application at the Stephens City Town Office, Stephens City Insurance Agency (5493 Main Street), or email scyardcrawl@gmail.com. Proceeds benefit Stephens City Lions Club.

Town Calendar of Events

May 2021

- May 4 Town Council Meeting 6:00 pm
- May 11 Personnel Committee 4:30 pm
- May 18 Historic Preservation Comm 5:00 pm
- May 19 Public Works Committee 4:30 pm
- May 19 Ordinance Committee 5:30pm
- May 20 Heritage Festival Comm 7:15 pm
- May 25 Planning Commission 7:30 pm
- May 26 Finance Committee 4:00 pm
- May 27 Public Safety Committee 5:00 pm
- May 31 Memorial Day Office Closed**
- May 31 Parks & Rec Commission 5:30 pm

June 2021

- June 1 Town Council Meeting 6:00 pm.
- June 7 Water/Sewer bills due**
- June 8 Personnel Committee 4:30 pm
- June 15 Historic Preservation Commission 5:00 pm
- June 16 Public Works Committee 4:30 pm
- June 16 Ordinance Committee 5:00 pm
- June 17 Heritage Festival Comm 7:15 pm
- June 23 Finance Committee 4:00 pm
- June 24 Public Safety Committee 5:00 pm
- June 28 Parks & Rec Commission 5:30pm
- June 29 Planning Commission 7:30pm

Water and Sewer Billing

Water and sewer bills are due on **Monday, June 7, 2021 by 5:00 pm**. After 5:00 pm, a 10% penalty will be applied to late accounts. On Tuesday, **June 15, 2021** service will be discontinued for delinquency. An administrative fee of \$50 will be applied to the account on **Monday, June 14, 2021** 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.

Additional contaminants monitored in the Fredrick Water supplied water:

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 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	99th Percentile # Samples > AL	Exceedance	Date of Sample
Lead ppb	0	AL=15	<2.0 No sample exceeded the AL	No	July 2020
Copper ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	<2.0 No sample exceeded the AL	No	July 2020
Disinfection Byproducts					
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) ppb	NA	60	22 (13-36)	No	Quarterly 2020
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM) ppb	NA	80	33 (21-44)	No	Quarterly 2020
Disinfection Residual					
Contaminant/Unit of Measurement	MRDLG	MRDL	Level Found (Range)	Violation	Date of Sample
Chlorine ppm	4	4	2.09 (1.14-2.20)	No	Monthly

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>.

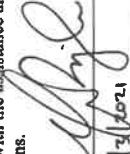
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Highest Level Found		Turbidity ¹		Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
			Diehl	Anderson	Diehl	Anderson		
Turbidity NTU	NA	TT ²	0.12	0.14	98.97	100	No	Soil Runoff
Inorganic Contaminants ³								
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)		Exceedance		Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Barium ppm	2	2	0.054	0.064	No	No	11/2020 Diehl 7/2020 Anderson	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride ppm	4	4	0.81	0.63	No	No	11/2020 Diehl 7/2020 Anderson	Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Erosion of natural deposits; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Nitrate ppm	10	10	2.36	2.60	No	No	11/2020 Diehl 7/2020 Anderson	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
Radiological Contaminants								
Contaminant / Unit of Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Level Found (Range)		Violation		Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Alpha emitters pCi/L	0	15	0.9	<1.2	No	No	8/2020 Diehl 4/2013 Anderson	Erosion of natural deposits
Beta emitters pCi/L	0	50*	1.9	2.9	No	No	08/2020 Diehl 4/2013 Anderson	Decay of natural and man-made deposits
Combined Radium pCi/L	0	5	0.9	0.6	No	No	08/2020 Diehl 4/2013 Anderson	Erosion of natural deposits
Total Organic Carbon								
Contaminant	MCLG	MCL	Removal Ratio (Range)		Exceedance		Date of Sample	Typical Source of Contamination
Total Organic Carbon	NA	TT	1.0 (1.0-1.0)	1.0 (1.0-1.0)	No	No	Monthly 2020	Natural present in the environment

¹ 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.
² Turbidity TT = 1 NTU Max; ≤ 0.3 NTU in at least 95% of all samples tested.
³ The MCL for beta particles is 4 mrem/yr. EPA considers 50 pCi/L to be the level of concern for beta particles.
⁴ Sodium level ranged from 6.73 mg/L to 14.9 mg/L

VIOLATION INFORMATION

- Failure to collect routine total coliform sample in November, 2020.
- Failure to meter water production in February, 2020.

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: 5/7/2021

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Town of Stephens City: Public Water System ID #2069634

INTRODUCTION

This Annual Drinking Water Quality Report for calendar year 2020 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 Majlter, Town Manager at 540-869-3087

You can obtain additional information by attending Town Council meetings held at 6:00 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. 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 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, 2020. 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.