



NewsPeak



Town of Apex, NC

February/March 2011

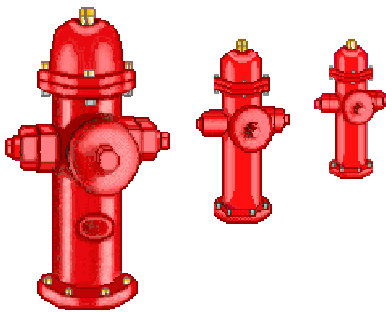
Water Treatment Plant will temporarily change method of disinfection during month of March



Beginning March 1, 2011 the Apex/Cary Water Treatment Plant will implement the annual switch from chloramines disinfection to free chlorine. This change in disinfection will last until the end of March and is being coordinated with an identical switch by the Town of Cary and the City of Raleigh. Periodic alternate disinfection is mandated by State and Federal regulatory agencies.

During the disinfection switch in March, the water will continue to be completely safe to drink but some consumers may notice more chlorine taste and odor.

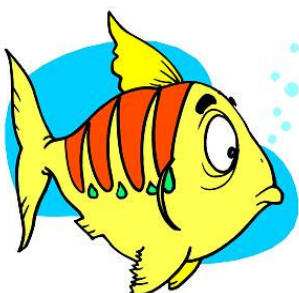
Annual System Flushing



Annual water distribution system flushing will be coordinated with the disinfection switch. Public Works employees will be in Apex neighborhoods from March 1 - April 1 opening fire hydrants in a planned sequential order to flush the water system. Crews may perform some of the work at night to avoid causing inconvenience to residents.

During or just after the time of this flushing operation, residents are urged to check their water before washing white clothes. If the water appears discolored, try running household faucets for a few minutes to clear household lines. If the water fails to clear, call Public Works at 249-3427 for assistance.

Special Alert



Kidney dialysis users should be aware that the water may contain chloramine, chlorine, or a mixture during March. During the month of April, the water plant will return to the use of chloramine disinfection. Mixtures of chlorine and chloramine may still be present during the early days of April.

Aquarium owners should use neutralizers that work on chlorine as well as chloramine during this time period. Please contact your local aquarium supply dealer if in doubt.

KEEPING EASEMENTS CLEAR

As the Town of Apex performs inspections of certain utilities, obstructions such as trees and fences continue to be discovered on easements. An easement is the property that the Town uses to access utilities such as water, sewer, and electric lines to perform routine maintenance and repairs. These obstructions hinder inspections required by the State and prevent Town employees from making quick repairs.

Large plantings within the rights-of-way also pose a threat to underground utilities and hinder repair activities. Rights-of-way are the portion of the roadside used for utility placement and maintenance.

All easements and rights-of-way are indicated on property surveys. Homeowners are urged to check these surveys before adding fences or plants in order to keep these areas clear.

HOLIDAY TRASH & RECYCLING PICK-UP SCHEDULE

The curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables is provided by contract service from Waste Industries. There are six annual holidays, **Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day**, when these services cannot be provided because the Wake County landfill is closed. If your collection day falls on one of these holidays, it will be postponed to the following day and any subsequent collection day in that same week will also be postponed one day. **Call Customer Service at 362-8676 if you are ever in doubt about your correct collection day.**

65-GALLON RECYCLING CARTS NOW AVAILABLE

You may request a 65-gallon rollout recycling cart, at no charge, by calling Waste Industries at 662-7100 or Town of Apex Customer Service at 362-8676.



SEPARATE GRASS AND LEAVES FROM LARGE OBJECTS

The Town provides curbside service for the collection of grass clippings and leaves with vacuum trucks. In order to prevent damage to the vacuum trucks resulting in collection delays, we ask that residents **refrain from placing large objects such as rocks or bricks within the piles of grass clippings and leaves.**



In addition, please keep grass clippings and leaves separate from small sticks, branches, and limbs that the Town regularly collects with our chippers. Please do not place yard waste in bags or in your trash cart. Ideally these piles should be placed 10 feet or greater from any stormwater curb inlet.

OIL & GREASE PROGRAM

Improper disposal of cooking oil and grease into sanitary sewers causes the majority of sewer overflows. Help us protect the environment and prevent these overflows by following these easy steps:

Please **DO NOT**:

1. Pour grease or oil from cooking down the drain.
2. Dispose of food scraps down the sink.



Please **DO**:

1. Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
2. Wipe the grease from pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing.
3. Compost vegetable scraps and place meat scraps in the garbage.

WATER AND SEWER SYSTEMS



The State of North Carolina requires municipalities to flush at least 10% of its total sewer collection system each year. This work is necessary to remove grease and other accumulations of solids that may block the sewer lines and cause overflows. The Town uses a high pressure flush truck for these operations. We would ask for your patience with our crews when they are working on sewers in the street or along sewer easements near creeks or yards. You can also help this process by not obstructing sewer easements with plantings or fences.

The Town is continuing rehab projects in older parts of Town by upgrading water and sewer lines. The goal is to improve overall service to customers.

ONLINE PUBLIC WORKS SERVICE REQUEST

The Town offers online service requests through our website at www.apexnc.org. Please go to the Public Works section and under 'Customer Service' click on 'Online Service Request'.

Residents may choose from a variety of options including reporting a burned out street light or scheduling a large (bulk) item pick up. There is also a 'miscellaneous' option where you may request a service that is not specified in the list.

If you prefer to speak with someone at Public Works, we are still just a phone call away at 249-3427.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

There are some wastes from your home that should not be thrown in the garbage! When these Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) are taken to the landfill they can leak pollutants into the ground. The following list provides examples of HHW that you may encounter at home:

- Batteries
- Fire extinguishers
- Fluorescent light bulbs
- Used oil/ antifreeze
- Paints/ lacquers
- Solvents/ thinners
- Pesticides/ herbicides

The average household produces more than 20 pounds of HHW each year. These HHW can cause health and environmental problems when they are improperly discarded.

All residents of Wake County can safely dispose of HHW at the

South Wake Multi-Material Recycling Facility at 6300 Old Smithfield Road in Apex. HHW collection is available Monday thru Saturday from 8 am to 4 pm. For more information regarding HHW please visit Wake County's website at the following location: www.wakegov.com/county/recycling/households/houshazwaste.html.

ELECTRIC UTILITIES NEWS



There are many ways you can save money while reducing your energy consumption. Visit

www.apexnc.org/depts/pw/elecSavings.cfm to learn more about the following programs:

- Online Energy Audit
- Load Management
- Water Heater Rebates
- Solar Program

Access to transformers and other electrical equipment is required for employees to perform routine maintenance. Safe operation of equipment requires a minimum of 3 feet of clearance from the sides and back, and 10 feet of clearance from the front. Electric equipment should be kept clear of vegetation and fences, and should be visible from the roadway. These obstructions can reduce the life of the equipment due to overheating and can delay power restoration during an outage.

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Stormwater runoff is rain that runs off of streets, parking lots, rooftops, and other impervious surfaces. As communities

develop, more impervious surfaces are created and less rainfall can infiltrate into the ground resulting in increased flooding and stream bank erosion.

Where does stormwater go?

Stormwater runoff typically flows into the nearest creek, stream, river, or lake and is not treated at a treatment plant.



What can citizens do to help?

- Minimize lawn fertilizer.
- Collect and bag pet waste.
- Report pollution, illegal dumping, and soil erosion.
- Remember any materials poured or placed on the ground can be carried by stormwater runoff to surface waters.
- Volunteer
- Find out more info: www.apexnc.org/depts/pw/divEnvironProg.cfm.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Town of Apex Storm Drain Marking Program is a great opportunity for volunteers to help educate their community about the importance of stormwater pollution prevention. This program allows volunteers to adhere watershed specific markers to storm drains. The markers serve as a reminder to the community that stormwater runoff can wash pollutants into our valuable waterways. Please contact Public Works at 249-3427 to organize a storm drain marking event for your group.



ILLICIT DISCHARGE DETECTION & ELIMINATION

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as any flow to a municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) that is not composed entirely of stormwater.

The storm sewer system is often confused with the sanitary sewer system. In Apex, these are two distinctly separate systems. Flows to the sanitary sewer system (e.g. flushing toilets, shower drains, kitchen and bathroom sink drains, etc.) are treated at the Apex Water Reclamation Facility located

on Highway 55. Flows to the stormwater system (through curbs openings on the edge of the street and through drop inlets) usually go to the nearest creek, stream, or lake and do not receive treatment at a plant. Remember, only rain down the drain!

Illicit discharges result in untreated flows that contribute high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria to receiving water bodies.

Report Polluters! By Town ordinance, illicit discharges are illegal. Call 249-3427 to report violations. Many environmental problems can be resolved as a result of these investigations. You can make a difference by calling!



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**Should you have any questions regarding information contained in this publication, please contact the Town of Apex Public Works and Utilities Department at 249-3427.**

**Cross-Connection Control/Backflow Prevention Program**

Per federal law, the Town of Apex administers a Cross-Connection Control Program to minimize contamination of the potable water supply. Customers have the prime responsibility for preventing contaminants and pollutants from entering the water supply system. The Town has developed and implemented an ordinance that requires all industrial, commercial, and irrigation customers to install approved backflow prevention assemblies. These backflow prevention assemblies are required to be tested annually to ensure proper operation and protection of the potable water supply.

Residential customers with an irrigation system receive their annual backflow testing notices during warm weather months (March – September). Commercial customers generally receive their annual backflow testing notices during the cold weather months (October – February). Notices are sent in postcard form. Residential and commercial customers have 30 days from receipt of the postcard to comply with the annual testing requirements. A list of “Approved Backflow Testers” is available from: [http://www.apexnc.org/depts/pw/cross\\_connect.cfm](http://www.apexnc.org/depts/pw/cross_connect.cfm). Please call Public Works at 249-3427 for any questions regarding the Town of Apex Backflow Program.

**Water Conservation**

Drinking water is a precious (and limited) resource. Apex citizens are encouraged to save water by checking their plumbing for leaks, installing water-saving plumbing devices, taking shorter shower, and using rain barrels. The Town’s odd/even irrigation schedule helps facilitate conservation especially when reasonably implemented by water customers. The schedule stays in effect year-round. Town staff closely monitors water supply levels and more restrictive measures will be implemented as necessary. For more information, visit [www.apexnc.org/depts/pw/waterrestrictions.cfm](http://www.apexnc.org/depts/pw/waterrestrictions.cfm).

**Town of Apex Year-Round Irrigation Schedule**

|                       | MON | TUES | WED | THURS | FRI | SAT | SUN |
|-----------------------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|
| <b>Odd Addresses</b>  | NO  | Yes  | NO  | Yes   | NO  | Yes | NO  |
| <b>Even Addresses</b> | NO  | NO   | Yes | NO    | Yes | NO  | Yes |

\*Hand Held Hose Watering is Allowed Everyday\*