



# The Strasburg Signal



www.strasburgva.com

Official Newsletter of the Town of Strasburg, Virginia

January 2021

The Strasburg Signal is published monthly by Town staff to inform citizens about town programs, services, and events. Your feedback is welcome. Please, send comments to the Town Office at 174 East King Street, PO Box 351, Strasburg, VA 22657, or call (540) 465-9197, or email info@strasburgva.com

## DID YOU KNOW.....

Trash left at the curb **MUST** be inside the trash cart. Bags left beside the cart will not be picked up, and trash overflowing the cart could cause all of your trash not to be collected. The trash company uses an automated arm so if the lid is not down on the cart, emptying the container is difficult and could prevent trash from being collected. If you routinely have more trash than your cart will hold, please contact the Town Office (540-465-9197) and request an additional cart; the cost is \$1 per month. You can also take excess trash to any Shenandoah County Convenience Sites; the closest to Strasburg is located at 321 Powhatan Road.



Please, no trash beside cart.



Overflowing cart might not be picked up.

## DO YOU KNOW? TAX TIDBIT

The Town of Strasburg participates in the Debt Set-off Program with the State of Virginia. If your account has a past due balance on December 31, 2020, you will be included in our file to the Department of Taxation in January 2021 for collections. Failure to pay your past due taxes may result in a delay in any Virginia state income tax refunds.



## LETTERS FROM SANTA

Letters, letters, and more letters. Santa received and mailed back a "bumper crop" of letters this holiday season! Parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and friends asked for letters to be sent to special children around the United States.



More than 275 letters were sent locally, as well as to California, Florida, Montana, Ohio, Maryland, and West Virginia. Hopefully, there were many smiling faces when the children received their letters.

## CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

Christmas Tree Pick-up will be January 4<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, weather permitting. All trees should be placed at the curb, free of ornaments by 8 a.m. Please note, if it is snowing, pick-up may be delayed.



## SNOW WILL FALL AGAIN!

Just a reminder that residents are required by Town ordinance to clear sidewalks after every snow event. Snow or ice should be removed during the first six hours of daylight following the time when snow or ice ceases to fall or form. When residents fail to clear snow and ice, school children, elderly, handicapped, and other pedestrians, are forced to walk on snow or ice-packed sidewalks, or in the street, which can lead to serious injury. Please pile snow in your own yard, and NOT in the street, where it will block the flow of stormwater. By keeping gutters and/or ditches clear of snow, most ice problems can be avoided.



To help the Town Crew as they are plowing streets, please park vehicles in driveways or off the street so the entire street can be plowed. Also, give a wave and a thank you to these guys as they work hard to make our streets safe.

## STAY INFORMED

Would you like to know when meetings are being held and what will be discussed? Please, email [info@strasburgva.com](mailto:info@strasburgva.com) to have your name added to the list of businesses and citizens who receive agendas for upcoming meetings. Stay in the loop for what is being discussed in the Town of Strasburg!

## JANUARY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

1- Town Office CLOSED	12 - Town Council, 7 p.m.
4 - Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	19 - Council Work Session, 7 p.m.

## ROUTINE UTILITY BILL FLUCTUATIONS

You may have noticed that your water/sewer bill will go up every 2-3 months even though you have not modified your household routines. We have consulted with our meter manufacturer and created an excel spreadsheet that you can download and experiment with different usages to see the effect on billing.

Strasburg Water Billed Units Example

Month	Start Actual Read	End Actual Read	Actual Usage Gallons	Start Read on Bill	End Read on Bill	Billed Units
January	607.001	609.313	2312	607	609	2
February	609.313	611.625	2312	609	611	2
March	611.625	613.937	2312	611	613	2
April	613.937	616.249	2312	613	616	3
May	616.249	618.561	2312	616	618	2
June	618.561	620.873	2312	618	620	2
July	620.873	623.185	2312	620	623	3
August	623.185	625.497	2312	623	625	2
September	625.497	627.809	2312	625	627	2
October	627.809	630.121	2312	627	630	3
November	630.121	632.433	2312	630	632	2
December	632.433	634.745	2312	632	634	2

This example table above shows that a constant usage of 2,312 gallons per month will generate one extra billing unit every 2-3 months. When the meter is read, the reading is rounded **down** to the nearest 1000 gallons. The extra gallons, in this case 312 gallons, is held in the meter until the next reading. Once these unaccounted for gallons total more than 1000 gallons an additional billing unit is added.

### Common Causes for High Water Bills

#### Running Toilets



A leaking toilet tank can waste up to 200 gallons of water per day. A total of 6,000 gallons per month or 72,000 gallons per year. Most high water bills are caused by leaks in toilets. You can see and hear some leaks, but many are silent and hard to find. A bad flapper valve, flapper valve seat, a bad ballcock valve, an improperly positioned float arm, or a defective overflow tube can cause them. At bedtime, when the toilet is not expected to be used for several hours, drop some dye into the top tank. If there is any dye in the bowl in the morning you have a leak!

#### Other Causes of High Bills

- A leaky water faucet can waste up to 33 gallons of water per day, a total of 1,000 gallons per month.
- Running your sprinkler for just one hour can use 400 gallons of water or more.
- Washing your car can use approximately 100 gallons of water.
- Filling a small child's pool requires approximately 40-300 gallons for each fill.
- "Topping off" a pool can use more than 2,000 gallons of water.
- Filling a hot tub uses about 500 gallons and regular 'top offs'.

