



The Town Newsletter is published monthly by Town staff to inform citizens about Town issues, programs and services. Your feedback is encouraged. Please send comments to the Town Office at 174 E King St, PO Box 351, Strasburg, VA 22657, by telephone at (540) 465-9197 or email: info@strasburgva.com.

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. The actual spreadsheet can be found on our website www.strasburgva.com.

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.

High Usage & Investigating Leaks

One of the first indications of a water leak is an unexplained increase in the usage amount and dollar amount of your water bill. If there is an increase in usage that cannot be explained such as the reoccurring billing unit mentioned above, extra people in the house, lawn watering, faucet left on, etc..., there is a possibility that you may have a leak in your toilet, hot water heater blow off, water softener, sprinkler system, a dripping faucet, or an underground leak in your service line.

Residents may check if there are any leaks in the house by visually inspecting the meter. A Public Works Technician or your plumber can provide access to your meter. Confirm that all sources of water use are shut off, and then observe your meter. If the meter indicates flow you may have a leak somewhere in your household plumbing or service line.

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!

Dripping Water Faucets

One hundred drips per minute can waste up to 33 gallons per day, a total of 1,000 gallons per month or 12,000 gallons per year. Water dripping or running from the showerhead when the shower is turned firmly off is usually caused by a bad washer or seat which needs replacing. Also check for leaks from the tub faucet when a tub shower is on. This leak will defeat the purpose of a low flow showerhead because the water you save with a low flow shower is lost from the tub faucet.



Other Causes of High Bills

- 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'.

STRASBURG FARMER'S MARKET



Pot Town Organics, located at 181 West King Street, is planning to host a Farmer's Market this year. If you are interested in participating or want more information, please contact Janet Heishman at Pot Town Organics. Phone: 465-4444 or Email: ptorganics@shentel.net



TALL GRASS

It may be hard to believe, but SPRING IS COMING! With the warm weather will come the increase in lawn maintenance as your grass and other vegetation "springs" back to life. Make sure to routinely cut your grass. This year, properties whose grass exceeds eight (8) inches will get only **ONE NOTICE** for the entire year before the Town cuts your grass and sends you a bill. Please remember - this one notice serves for the **entire year** and each time your grass exceeds the limit, the town can cut the grass and bill you. Also, violations can now be reported through your mobile device with the FREE app, YourGOV. Show that you are proud of our great community and keep your property well maintained.



While waiting for spring to come, please remember to shovel sidewalks in front of your home or business if more snow comes our way.

NEW AND EXISTING BUSINESSES

Whether you are new to town, planning to move here, or are thinking of starting a business, make sure you are, or will be, operating legally in Strasburg. Being a legal business in Strasburg does not end with just having your business license. If you have any signs (building mounted, window signage, free-standing, sandwich boards, etc.), plan to expand, or wish to start a home business, you will need a permit. With the Town Council's adoption of the Unified Development Ordinance (UDO) on July 15th, 2014, many existing rules and regulations are much clearer than they used to be. Stop by, phone 540-465-9197, or email the town's Planning and Zoning Administrator (wpearson@strasburgva.com) if you have any questions about whether or not you are in compliance. We are here to help you better prepare for your changes and we also have business resources to share.

Also, if you are planning to open a restaurant or other food establishment, be sure to contact Tax Clerk Emily Ritenour to find out all the ins and outs of meals tax --- how much must be collected, when the tax is due to the town, what can happen if the tax is not turned into the town, etc. Emily can be reached at the Town Hall, by calling 540-465-9197 or emailing: eritenour@strasburgva.com. Town Staff wants you to succeed in your business and we are all here to help with that success.

PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR UTILITY PAYMENTS

All of us sometimes forget to pay a bill. The Town of Strasburg offers "Auto Draft" for your utility bill. Here is how it works:

- Sign up at the Town Office (174 E. King Street) or call (465-9197) or check our website (www.strasburgva.com) for a form.
- Your payment will automatically be deducted from your bank account on the due date.

Other payment options are also available. Credit cards are accepted at the counter for utility bills. In addition, utility bills and taxes can be paid online using Official Payments (a small fee will apply for online payments). On the town's website, www.strasburgva.com, click on the "Official Payments" link and follow the directions given. The Town's jurisdiction code is "9004".

ARTIST OF THE MONTH

The featured artist for the months of March and April is Jennifer Walker, art teacher at Strasburg High School. Jennifer's work is well-known to many as she is the artist responsible for the ram mural on the Strasburg High School press box which she painted while a student there. Other murals can be found throughout the school, as well as in a few buildings at James Madison University where she completed her education.

The subjects of Jennifer's paintings are typically scenes from nature and local, familiar places. "God has blessed me with an aptitude for art and opportunities to use my gifts. He has also blessed me with a loving husband, Neil Walker, and our six year old daughter, Bailey."

Plan to attend the Artist Reception on Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 – 7 p.m. or stop by the Town Hall during regular business hours to view the beautiful work.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Strasburg is currently accepting applications for:

- Lifeguards and concession stand workers with the possibility of management positions being available at the Town Pool.



Please, visit strasburgva.com for additional information.

MAYFEST UPDATES

The Strasburg Chamber of Commerce is busy planning for the 2015 Mayfest Celebration on Saturday, May 16, and Sunday, May 17. Mark your calendars now for a fun-filled weekend. If you are interested in being an exhibitor, food vendor, or contestant in the Mayfest Pageant, please see deadline dates below:

- Food Vendor Application Deadline: Friday, April 3, 2015
- Mayfest Pageant Registration Deadline: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 (Pageant will be held on Sunday, April 26 in the Old Gym at Strasburg High School)
- Exhibitor Application Deadline: Friday, April 17, 2015

For complete details, please visit: www.strasburgvachamber.com or call the Chamber Office at 540-465-3187. Additional information will be included in future newsletters.

TRASH & RECYCLING SCHEDULE FOR MARCH:

- Wednesday, Mar. 4: **Trash Collection ONLY**
- Wednesday, Mar. 11: **Trash & Recycling Collection**
- Wednesday, Mar. 18: **Trash Collection ONLY**
- Wednesday, Mar. 25: **Trash & Recycling Collection**

MARCH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.	16 – Council Work Session, 7 p.m.
10 – Artist-of-the-Month Reception, 5:30 p.m. til 7 p.m. Town Council, 7 p.m.	23 - Ordinance Committee, 5:30 p.m. Finance & Personnel Committee, 7 p.m.
12 – ARB, 7 p.m.	24 – Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

STRASBURG LIBRARY CAPITAL FUND CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!

Did you know that:

- The library budget is only \$36,000 a year and less than ½ is from public dollars?
- Each year building maintenance consumes about 15% of the budget?
- Volunteers contribute almost 400 hours each month to keep the library operating?
- Nearly 38,000 people use the library each year?

Please Donate!!!

**Send your tax deductible contribution to:
The Strasburg Library Capital Fund
195 West King Street
Strasburg, VA 22657**