



BOGUE BANKS WATER NEWS



Happy New Year from Bogue Banks Water Corporation! 2024 is here and with it another great year to be here on the Crystal Coast of North Carolina.

I'm sure everyone has heard of the current hot topic in the water industry by now, PFAS being found in drinking water in various places throughout the country. Most notably in our area was the areas served by the Cape Fear River. The water was contaminated by a factory upstream. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS, are widely used, long-lasting chemicals that are often referred to as 'forever-chemicals'. The EPA is working to learn and fully understand the long-term effects of PFAS on the environment, wildlife, and humans. During this process, they are working to establish a 'MCL' or Maximum Contaminant level for drinking water systems. Bogue Banks Water participated in a state-run sampling program earlier this year to perform initial tests for PFAS in community water systems. I'm happy to say that our test came back as ND or non-detectable. For more information on PFAS, visit the EPA's website at: epa.gov/pfas/pfas-explained.

Water conservation, especially during the warmer months, has been a focus of Bogue Banks Water for several years now. Small adjustments made by the thousands of customers we have can really add up. This past summer we saw an average decrease close to 500,000 gallons a day compared to just 3 years ago. Irrigation is still the biggest user of water by far in the warm months, but we thank you for making the changes you have and starting the process of using water in a conservative, efficient manner. Ensuring sprinkler heads are not spraying on the street or driveways, utilizing natural landscaping and native plants, and functioning rain sensors are all great ways to maintain your lawn while reducing your water dependence. Instead of blindly running your system for a couple hours at night, contact your irrigation installer or local landscape company about how long it should run. They can perform calculations based on your individual zones and system to tell you exactly how long it should run. You may be overwatering. Artificial lawns, rock gardens, and a higher

landscaped area to grass percentage are other great alternatives for lowering water dependency. Take a site seeing drive around the island, there are lots of great examples in our community already!

As cold weather closes in on us, it's important to prepare your home to prevent damage from burst water lines. Properly insulate any water line that is either exposed to the elements or is in an unheated space such as a garage or utility room. Customers with RPZ's should ensure that the box is properly insulated and secured to the concrete pad. A plumber can also winterize your home if you are leaving for extended periods of time. Even with precautions, pipes can still freeze and burst. We will turn off water to homes we find or have been called about in the event this happens. Make sure your contact information with us is up to date so we can notify you in the event it does happen.

These past few years since the Covid19 pandemic have seen the economy flip and prices rise much faster than normal. The supply and demand issues have almost gone back to normal, but the cost increases associated with have not. It affects us here at Bogue Banks Water as well. Raw materials, insurance, equipment, it all increased exponentially. Those increases have leveled off but have not gone back down. We will be increasing the fees, base rates, and water usage by an average of 5% this year. You'll see the increase in the bill that is received in March of this spring. The full rate increase listing can be found on our website at: BogueBanksWater.com.

the Water Cycle

