

GO GREEN EXPO 2019

GO GREEN EXPO Join us on Sept. 7 at the Brittingham-Midtown Community Center, 570 McLawhorne Dr., Newport News for the 2019 Go Green Expo, the Peninsula's premier sustainability event, sponsored by the area's Master Gardeners!

From 10 am to 3 pm, you can learn about sustainable practices, attend workshops and purchase eco-friendly products. There's even a Kids Zone for the little ones. And admission is free!

Rain barrel workshops will be held at 10 am and 1 pm. For only \$60, you can "Make & Take" your own rain barrel! Advance registration is required; call 757-591-4838 to register. For more information about the Expo or the rain barrel workshops, go to nngogreenexpo.org.

Like us on Facebook to receive helpful tips, special announcements, and updates. Plus, we get to hear from you!
[facebook.com/nnwaterworks](https://www.facebook.com/nnwaterworks)

Waterworks Prepares Proactive Response to Cyanotoxins

It's summer! Time for cookouts, baseball, vacations, fishing—and algae?

Summer temperatures create perfect conditions for algae to form in our reservoirs. Certain types of algae, formerly called blue-green algae and now known as cyanobacteria, can create "Harmful Algal Blooms" or HABS. And HABS, in turn, can produce cyanotoxins, which can be harmful to both humans and animals.

Fortunately, Waterworks is ahead of the game. After the US EPA issued a health advisory for cyanotoxins in 2015, Waterworks tested both our source waters and our treated water for cyanotoxins. These tests confirmed that we are at minimal risk of a cyanotoxin occurrence.

Despite these findings, and even though it's not required by any state or federal regulations, Waterworks developed a Cyanotoxin Management Program (CMP) based on EPA recommendations.

Following the steps outlined in the CMP, Waterworks will continue to regularly monitor our source waters. If cyanotoxins are found, we'll begin

testing the treated water.

In the unlikely event we ever confirm cyanotoxins in the finished water at or above the EPA's lowest 10-day health advisory level, Waterworks will immediately begin the appropriate treatment protocols and issue a system-wide advisory, notifying all our customers not to consume the water until it is once again safe to drink.

Want more information? A Fact Sheet about cyanotoxins and the harmful algal blooms that cause them can be found on our website at: <https://www.nnva.gov/2468>.



HABS can look like thick scum or paint-like substances on the surface of the water.

No Rate Increase This Year

Waterworks customers will be pleased to learn that for the second year in a row, there will be no increase in water rates or service fees. Rates and fees will remain at



their current levels through June 2020. You can find our current rates online at nnva.gov/325/Rates-Fees.

WATERWORKS MISSION: To provide high quality drinking water and support public health, safety, and the community with a professional team of dedicated employees, committed to excellence.



The Facts About PFAS

Recent national news reports about a group of synthetic chemicals known as PFAS may have some Waterworks customers concerned about the safety of their drinking water. We want to assure you that we're aware of this issue; we have tested for PFAS and have not detected those compounds in your drinking water.

PFAS stands for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Two of these chemicals, PFOA and PFOS, have been used to make carpets, clothing, food packaging, non-stick cookware, and other materials. They're also found in firefighting foams, which have been used extensively on U.S. military bases.



Non-stick cookware is one of the potential sources of PFAS exposure.

For most people, consumer products and food are the main sources of exposure to these chemicals; however, drinking water can be a source in communities where these chemicals have contaminated the water supplies. Such contamination is typically localized and associated with a

specific facility, for example, an industrial plant where these chemicals were produced or an airfield at which they were used for firefighting.

In the Waterworks watershed area, there is no industrial manufacturer, and none of the airports or military facilities use PFAS as a flame retardant.

In 2013-2014, Waterworks tested for six PFAS compounds as part of a year-long, US EPA-mandated monitoring program. We were unable to detect PFAS in any of

the samples collected.

At this time, there is no regulatory limit on the concentration of these chemicals in drinking water. The US EPA has, however, established a "health advisory" and is currently considering regulations.

Meanwhile, Waterworks customers can be assured that their water meets all federal and state standards for safety. We are committed to protecting public health and will continue to monitor this issue closely to stay ahead of potential health risks.

It's Hurricane Season: Time to Prepare

Hurricane season is June 1–Nov. 30. Waterworks has a response plan in place to minimize impacts if a hurricane should hit our area. Our goal is to continue supplying you with safe tap water while also protecting our employees and our property from harm.

Waterworks makes its response decisions based upon several factors, including the speed, strength, and forecasted track of a coming storm. Of course, predicting the effects of a hurricane is difficult, so the best thing we can do is prepare well in advance.

Preparation activities are completed in stages, as the conditions for each stage are met. These activities include:

- Assigning emergency crews to respond to damage to our facilities and/or distribution system
- Staging heavy equipment and other materials at predetermined locations
- Keeping you informed of our status through news broadcasts, website



updates, and Facebook posts

We don't wait to prepare, and neither should you. Go to readyvirginia.gov to learn how to make a family plan and what to put into your emergency supply kit.

Waterworks
NEWPORT NEWS
DEPARTMENT

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757-926-1000

Office Hours: 8 am - 5 pm | M-F
Emergencies (nights, holidays and weekends) call the Waterworks dispatcher at 757-234-4800.