



# NewsPeak

February/  
March  
2017

*This publication highlights some of the services provided by the Town of Apex*

## **Water Treatment Plant will Temporarily Change Method of Disinfection During Month of March - Your Water is Still Completely Safe to Drink!**



Beginning March 1, 2017 the Cary/Apex Water Treatment Plant will implement the annual switch from chloramine disinfection to free chlorine disinfection. This change will last until the end of March and is being coordinated with an identical switch by other local municipalities. Periodic alternate disinfection is mandated by State and Federal regulatory agencies.

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

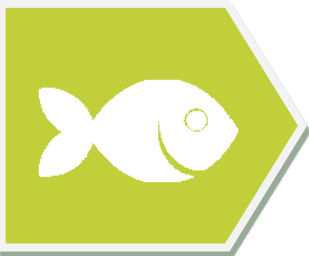
## **Annual Water System Flushing - Clearing the Lines**

Annual water distribution system flushing will be coordinated with the March disinfection switch. Water Resources employees will be in Apex neighborhoods from March 1 - April 1 opening fire hydrants in a planned sequential order to flush the entire water distribution system. Crews will make every effort to avoid disturbances to yard waste and trash carts in the curb. Some work may be performed at night to avoid inconvenience to residents.

During or just after the time of this flushing operation, residents are urged to check their water before washing white clothing. If the water appears discolored, try running household faucets for a few minutes to flush household lines. If the water fails to clear, call Water Resources at (919) 362-8166 for further assistance.



## **Special Alerts—Dialysis Patients and Aquarium Owners**



Kidney dialysis users should be aware that your water may contain chloramine, chlorine, or a mixture during the month of 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 in 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 for more information.

## **Quick Reference Contact List**

**Water quality concern:** (919) 362-8166  
**Sewer concern:** (919) 362-8166  
**Yard Waste:** (919) 249-3427

**Billing questions:** (919) 362-8676  
**Trash & Recycling:** (919) 362-8676

## Keeping Easements Clear

An easement is property that the Town uses to access utilities such as water, sewer, and electric lines in order to perform routine maintenance and repairs. Easements should be kept clear of large plantings and fences, as these obstructions can hinder inspections required by the State and prevent Town employees from making timely repairs.

All easements are indicated on recorded property surveys. Homeowners are encouraged to check these surveys before adding fences or plantings in order to keep the areas clear as intended.



## Yard Waste Basics



The Town provides curbside collection of grass clippings and leaves with vacuum trucks. In order to prevent damage to the trucks and potential collection delays, we ask that residents **do not place items such as dirt and rocks within the piles of grass clippings and leaves.**

Please also keep grass clippings and leaves separate from branches and limbs that the Town regularly collects with separate chipper trucks. Ideally yard waste piles should be placed 10 feet or more away from any stormwater curb inlet to prevent pollution and clogging.

You can purchase a compost bin (exact cash or check only) at the Public Works Admin building (105-B Upchurch St.) any weekday from 7:30am - 4:00pm.

Get more information on the program at: [www.apexnc.org/yardwaste](http://www.apexnc.org/yardwaste).

## Holiday Trash & Recycling Collection Schedule

The curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables is provided by contract service from Waste Industries. There are six annual holidays when these services cannot be provided because the Wake County landfills are closed: **Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day.** If your regular collection day falls on one of these holidays, service will be postponed to the following day and any subsequent collection day in that same week will also be postponed by one day. Call Customer Service at (919) 362-8676 for more information about this contracted service or about your collection day.



**NEW!**

Want to be notified of changes to your trash and recycling schedule, due to holidays or inclement weather? Sign up for our new notification tool at [www.apexnc.org/apexcollects](http://www.apexnc.org/apexcollects).

## Electric Utilities



The Town of Apex Electric Division's goal is to provide customers with safe, affordable, and reliable electric power in a prompt, courteous, and environmentally responsible manner.

This year the Town of Apex Electric Department is celebrating 100 years of Lighting Up the Peak!

**COMING SOON**

We're working on a great new solution for reporting outages! For more details, visit [www.apexnc.org/outage](http://www.apexnc.org/outage).

## Water and Sewer Systems

---

The State of North Carolina requires municipalities to flush at least 10% of its gravity sanitary sewer collection system each year. The Town of Apex operates 225 miles of gravity sewer lines, so 22.5 miles (or approximately 119,000 feet) must be flushed on an annual basis! This work is necessary to remove grease and other accumulations of solids that may block the lines and cause overflows. The Town asks that you not flush disposable wipes down toilets.

Town crews inspect the sanitary sewer system with video cameras for general maintenance and assessment of structural integrity. Over 6,500 gravity sewer manholes are part of this system and are inspected and maintained as part of this process. In addition, the Town maintains 40 miles of forcemain and 28 pump stations.

To help facilitate this work, please do not obstruct sewer easements in yards and along creeks with plantings or fences.



## Oil and Grease Program

---



Improper disposal of cooking oil and grease to the sanitary sewer system is the main cause of sewer overflows. Help us protect the environment and prevent these overflows by following these simple steps.

### **Please DO NOT:**

---

- Pour grease or oil from cooking down the sink drain.
- Dispose of food scraps in the sink with a garbage disposal.

### **Please DO:**

---

- Collect grease in a container and dispose of in the regular trash once cooled.
- Wipe the grease from pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing.
- Compost vegetable scraps and place meat scraps in the trash.

## Online Service Request

---

The Town offers online service requests through our website: [www.apexnc.org/requesttracker.aspx](http://www.apexnc.org/requesttracker.aspx).

Residents may choose from a variety of options including reporting a pothole, scheduling a large (bulk) item trash pick-up, or missed recycling collection.



## Do You Have An Irrigation System?

---

Then you have a backflow preventer that needs annual testing! An automatic irrigation system is a common cross-connection (between potable and possibly non-potable water). A backflow preventer is required on all cross-connections, to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the drinking water system.

Testing these backflow preventers annually helps to ensure that our potable water stays clean and safe. The Town contracts with BSI Online to track all testing and reporting of backflow preventers in Apex. Please check out our website for even more information: [www.apexnc.org/backflow](http://www.apexnc.org/backflow).

**Household Mercury**

All North Carolina waterways have been targeted for a reduction in mercury concentrations in response to a State-wide fish consumption advisory. Common household sources of mercury include:

- Thermometers (older mercury thermometers contain 0.5 grams of mercury)
- Thermostats (contain 3 grams of mercury)
- Fluorescent lights (light tubes contain 4—50 mg and compact fluorescent light bulbs contain 4—8 mg)
- Button Batteries – (contain 25 mg of mercury)
- Thermostat Probes – Contain mercury and are found on gas-fired appliances such as stoves, ovens, and furnaces

By law, these products cannot be disposed of in the landfill. They are considered a household hazardous waste and must be taken to a special Wake County collection center, like the one located at 6130 Old Smithfield Rd. in Apex. For more information on household hazardous waste, please visit: [www.apexnc.org/HHW](http://www.apexnc.org/HHW).

**Water Conservation**

Drinking water is a limited resource. Apex citizens are encouraged to save water by checking their plumbing for leaks, installing water-saving devices, and using rain barrels in the yard. Rain barrels are available for purchase (exact cash or check only) at the Public Works Admin building (105-B Upchurch St.) any weekday from 7:30am - 4:00pm.

The mandatory year-round odd/even irrigation schedule helps facilitate conservation. Town staff monitors water supply levels and more restrictive measures can be implemented as necessary.

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

	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
Odd Addresses	NO	Yes	NO	Yes	NO	Yes	NO
Even Addresses	NO	NO	Yes	NO	Yes	NO	Yes

\*Hand Held Hose Watering is Allowed Everyday\*

**Stormwater**

Stormwater runoff is rainwater that runs off impervious surfaces (streets, parking lots, rooftops, etc.) as opposed to soaking into the ground. Contaminants (sediment, motor oil, detergents, fertilizers, etc.) can be picked up as the stormwater flows to the nearest creek or stream. This water does not receive treatment at a plant!

What you can do to help!

- Collect and bag pet waste
- Minimize lawn fertilizer use
- Report illegal dumping and soil erosion
- Volunteer to mark storm drains



Get more information:

<http://www.apexnc.org/495/Public-Involvement-Participation>

**Illicit Discharge Detection & Elimination**

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as any flow to a stormwater system that is not composed entirely of stormwater. In Apex, stormwater flows do not receive treatment at a plant!

Illicit discharges result in untreated flows that contribute high levels of pollutants to receiving water bodies. We encourage citizens to **report polluters!** By ordinance, illicit discharges are illegal in the Town of Apex.

Call Water Resources at (919) 362-8166 to report violations. Many environmental problems can be resolved as a result of these investigations and you can make a difference by calling!