
“THE PUDDLE”

THE NORTH KINGSTOWN DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY NEWSLETTER

March 2008

Invitation to the 8th Annual Spirit Day Celebration at the North Kingstown High School

The 8th Annual Spirit Day Celebration will be held on March 29th from 10:00am to 2:00pm at the North Kingstown High School. The event, as in the past, is free and open to the public and all are invited. However attendees are requested to bring a non-perishable item for the NK Food Pantry.

Returning by popular demand are Burt the Raccoon and his mentor, John Tierney, the kids bouncies, the Wild Life Rehabilitators with their rescued animals, the South County Hospital Healthcare System with a variety of free screening procedures, Gilbert Stuart Museum, The Allen-Madison House, RI Tree Council, Norman Bird Sanctuary, Casey Farm, the West Bay Family YMCA ballet and tap groups, the Master Gardeners, the Davisville Middle School student research group, Rhody Fresh (which this year is donating milk to the concession stand run for the event by the NK Boys and Girls Cross Country Team) and the RI Blood Center van which will collect donations in the High School parking lot. Also Working Together for Wellness will have an exhibit and is sponsoring a Jamestown and North Kingstown Girl Scout troop to collect new underwear for needy children and a student activity group, True North, and the North Kingstown Police Department will be offering information on civilian programs that it sponsors.

New this year will be a Rhody Warm exhibit showing heritage blankets woven from the wool of Rhode Island Sheep, an exhibit by the RI Farm Bureau underlining the need for increased food production in the State (Rhode Island currently grows only 3% of its food), an exhibit by the Rose Hill Lighthouse Association showing how it has incorporated 'green' restoration strategies into plans for the restored lighthouse, and the Office Recycling Solutions van which will collect e-waste in the High School parking lot for a small fee (much e-waste is toxic and, without the special care given by organizations like ORS finds its way into both our landfills and our drinking water).

The "Rhode Island Water Lady" Rain Barrel Offer

On-line ordering available at www.riwaterlady.com

For additional information visit the Water Department web page at www.northkingstown.org



Item #1 60 Gallon Green Rain Barrel - \$85 (tax included)

Item #2: Rain water diverter - \$20 each

Item #3: Do-It Yourself Food Barrel - \$50 each

Rain barrels cannot be delivered to you but must be picked up.
Please reserve your barrel as soon as possible as supplies are limited.

Wastewater Management Update

As you may be aware, the Town of North Kingstown has switched our wastewater management tracking system to the newly available Rhode Island Wastewater Information System (RIWIS), a web-based program that allows us to be much more effective in tracking town-wide compliance. A number of homeowners have already received reminder postcards generated by the new system, and more will be on the way to the homeowners and businesses located in Wastewater Management District 3 later this summer. So, **if you have had your system inspected or have had maintenance performed on it, please send us a copy by mail or FAX (401 885-7373) or have your maintenance provider update the web system directly.**

Where Do You Fit In?

"Every drop of rainwater that runs off pavement instead of seeping into the ground is water that is lost from our drinking water supplies." – North Kingstown *The Puddle*, Nov. 2007

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Polluted stormwater is the result of local land-use policies and our everyday personal actions. However, because our personal choices have such an impact, there are many opportunities to do something about the problem!



So We Know Stormwater Is A Problem...

When rain hits the pavement, it picks up and mixes with what's there, from automotive fluids to fertilizers and pesticides. All of that pollution flows directly to local waters or to stormdrains, which eventually discharge to water bodies, without any type of treatment. The following list offers simple steps you can take to control stormwater impacts:

The Top Ten To-Dos

Lawn Care

1. Water your lawn as little as possible, and definitely *don't* water the sidewalk or driveway.
2. Reduce the amount of pesticides and fertilizers you apply, and sweep up any that land on pavement. You'll save money, too!
3. Minimize exposed soil areas on your property, so that soil doesn't get carried away with stormwater.
4. Divert rooftop runoff to a rain barrel or onto the lawn rather than a driveway. Collected water can even be used for watering plants.

Home Care

5. Don't pour hazardous household wastes (paint, thinner, oven cleaners, etc.) down stormdrains or down your own drains. Call Eco-Depot at 942-1430 x241 to drop off.
6. Have your septic system inspected regularly and pumped out as needed - at least every three years.

Auto Care

7. If you change your own motor oil, recycle the used oil.
8. Wash your vehicle at a designated car wash or on grass—not in paved driveways.

Pet Care

9. Scoop your dog's poop. Then throw it in the trash.
10. Don't feed waterfowl.

The Two To Live By

Lists can be daunting. So we've come up with the following recommendations to use as a rule-of-thumb:

- **Keep as much water as possible off of paved surfaces.**
- **Keep the water that does run off, as clean as possible.**

In future editions of *The Puddle*, we'll share more suggestions on simple actions *you* can take to reduce stormwater pollution.