



WESTCHESTER JOINT WATER WORKS

1625 Mamaroneck Avenue
P.O. Box 398
Mamaroneck, New York 10543

Telephone: (914) 698-3500
Fax: (914) 381-4241

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Water Works Announces the Need for New Water Rates and Encourages Wise Water Use During Hot Summer Months

Mamaroneck, NY (June 17, 2011) The Westchester Joint Water Works has announced the need for new water rate increases for each of its member municipalities. The increases are to cover the recently announced 5.6% base rate and 7.5% excess rate increases for purchasing New York City's water, as well as an increase of approximately 4% to cover Water Works operating expenses. In addition, the increases are to fund a number of joint and local capital improvement projects such as new water mains, booster pumps, pressure regulators and the rehabilitation of a number of water storage tanks. The increases, to be discussed and approved by each municipality at their respective Board meetings over the next few weeks, are to take effect with water used after meters are read in July. For example, if a meter is read on July 20th, the homeowner will be charged the existing rate up to July 20th and the new rate for water used after July 20th. The new rate for each municipality will take effect after the new rates have been adopted by their respective Boards. As has been the policy in the past, Water Works customers in the City of Rye will pay the same water rates as the Village of Mamaroneck plus a surcharge for the taxes levied by the City of Rye on the Water Works' water mains serving these customers. Likewise, Water Works customers in the City of New Rochelle will pay the same water rates as the Town of Mamaroneck customers plus a surcharge for taxes levied by the City of New Rochelle on the Water Works' water mains serving these customers. By way of background, over the last 10 years, New York City's average annual rate increase has been approximately 11% while the average annual rate increase for the Water Works' member municipalities has been approximately 10%. In an attempt to keep customers informed of the pending rate increases, all May and June water bills included a notice printed on the bill indicating there would be a rate increase in July.

In a related matter and in anticipation of high water use in the summer, over the last few months, the Water Works has been actively encouraging its customers to detect and fix leaks and conserve and use water wisely, especially water used for irrigation. Besides a widely distributed press release in March, the Water Works recently contacted its customers with a pre-recorded telephone message encouraging wise water use and notifying them of the pending water rate increase in July. The Water Works is asking its customers to voluntarily water their lawns between the hours of 8 PM and 11 PM, thus reducing consumption during the peak water demand period from 3 AM to 9 AM, so that there is adequate water pressure for firefighting and early morning domestic and commercial activities. In addition, the Water Works is reminding customers with automatic irrigation systems that they must have a Water Works permit and a backflow prevention device that must be inspected annually by a certified contractor, as it is needed to protect against the backflow of contaminants from irrigation systems into the public water supply. Finally, customers with large automatic irrigation systems are encouraged to use modern state-of-the-art smart irrigation controls. These controls can help conserve water and save money by not relying strictly on a pre-set timer. Rather the controls use sensors and probes placed in various zones to monitor weather conditions, soil moisture, soil type, ground cover, slope and other factors.

Additional information regarding water conservation, leak detection and repairs and requirements for irrigation system approvals and backflow prevention devices is available on the Water Works website at: www.wjww.com.