



# Cape Charles Gazette Special Edition

Publication Date: February 19, 2015

We hope that you will enjoy reading the Cape Charles Gazette which is the electronic newsletter published from time to time by the Town Manager on behalf of the municipal government of the Town of Cape Charles. The Gazette provides a variety of information that we believe will be useful to the citizens and businesses of Cape Charles as well as those who plan to travel to Cape Charles or have any interest in our Town or the Town's government. The Gazette provides information on actions being undertaken or being considered by the Town government, upcoming activities in the Town, important public safety and security issues and emergency announcements.

We welcome your responses which may be sent to [gazette@capecharles.org](mailto:gazette@capecharles.org), by regular mail to 2 Plum Street, Cape Charles, VA 23310.

We also encourage you to visit the Town's website at [www.capecharles.org](http://www.capecharles.org) where you will find up-to-date information about the operation of the Town government.

If you enjoy receiving the Cape Charles Gazette, please go to [www.capecharles.org](http://www.capecharles.org) to sign up for e-Notifications. You can also sign up to get regular updates on Agendas & Minutes, Alerts, Bids, Calendar Items, Job Postings and other News & Information. You control the information you receive and can cancel the notifications at any time.



With the snow storm earlier this week and the record-breaking freezing temperatures, there have been a number of properties in town with frozen pipes and water leaks. The actual impact of the water leaks will not be able to be determined until the temperatures go above freezing for a length of time. This is expected this coming Saturday, February 21, and Sunday, February 22.

The Public Utilities crew has been working diligently to repair water leaks but has been challenged by the need to continuously pump the water from the wells into the water tank due to the increased demand caused by the leaks. Depending on the severity of the leaks discovered this coming weekend, the Public Utilities crew MAY shut down the water plant on Sunday morning from 12:00 AM (midnight) to approximately 5:00 AM in order to fill the water tank to capacity. This time slot was chosen as a timeframe to cause the least amount of disruption to the residents of Cape Charles. The plant will be shut down ONLY if absolutely necessary.

Also as a reminder, the Town has a number of out-of-town property owners who use their Cape Charles houses as second or vacation rental homes. We request that you keep an eye out for leaks at those vacant properties once the temperatures go above freezing and notify the Public Utilities Dept at 757-695-1025 or 757-999-3838 immediately.

If you own a home that is not used during the winter months, you may opt to have your water service temporarily disconnected as a safeguard to freezing pipes and potential water leaks which could cause severe property damage. Many of the newer homes in Town and some of the older, remodeled homes, have interior water shut-off valves installed. If your home has an interior shut-off valve, we urge you to shut off the water to your home if you are planning to be away for any length of time. We also recommend draining the lines to any exterior faucets to prevent them from freezing. If your home does not have an interior shut-off valve, you can contact the Utility Billing Department at 757-331-3259 x14 to arrange to have your water service temporarily discontinued while you are away. There is a \$25 fee for discontinuing the service and a \$25 fee for reactivating the service which is a small price to pay for the ease of mind that your pipes will not freeze and burst (Town Code § 70-45). Please note that unless you have an interior water shut-off valve, it is unlawful for any person to turn the water service off at the street. There have been several instances where homeowners have attempted to turn off the water at the street and have damaged the valves which can cause serious leaks in the system. In order for the damages to be repaired, the water must be shut off for the entire street/block until the repairs can be made. The cost of repairs may be charged to the property owner causing the damage.

We welcome your feedback. Please send your comments to [gazette@capecharles.org](mailto:gazette@capecharles.org).

Any reference to an external website is for public information only and does not constitute an endorsement of that website.

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