



P.O. Box 189, Richmond, ME 04357
Ph: 207-737-4721 **Fax:** 207-737-2427
Email: office@richmondutilities.org
Website: richmondutilities.org

APRIL 2025 NEWSLETTER

NEW BILLING SYSTEM:

Richmond Utilities District is glad to announce that it will be upgrading the billing system beginning with the July 1st bills. You will notice a visual change in the bill layout and there will also be additional benefits such as a live customer portal and additional payment options. We hope you find this change easier to use and beneficial.

SPRING HYDRANT FLUSHING:

Reminder that during the month of April hydrant flushing will be underway. You may experience colored water during the flushing. Please run your water within your home until the color disappears.

SEWER PLANT UPGRADE REASONS FOR RATE INCREASES, OPERATIONS:

The trustees have had to increase rates over time to keep pace with the debt service associated with the most recent wastewater upgrade and the operational and maintenance cost associated with operating the new plant. The trustees have worked to spread the increases out over several years. A 10 percent increase is slated to take effect on April 1st 2025.

The district secured close to 7 million-dollars in USDA grants to help offset the cost of the 14-million-dollar wastewater plant upgrade.

MANHOLE PROJECT 2024:

In our 2019 Sewer Survey many problems were identified, and many were repaired this year with the help of contractors. 10 manholes were rehabilitated using GeoKrete mortar, and three manholes were replaced. This total of 13 manholes has decreased our intake of ground water into the sewers, and we have not had one sanitary sewer bypass at Front St. Pump Station since this project wrapped up.

An additional collection system upgrade of 1.4 million-dollars will line or replace sections of the wastewater system that have been identified as deficit. The district secured a 1-million-dollar Clean Water SRF Grant to help finance this project. This work is slated to begin later in 2025.

DRINKING WATER RATE INCREASE:

The first drinking water increase since 2013 is set at 1.5 percent and will take effect July 1st 2025. This increase is simply to help keep pace with inflation.

DRINKING WATER TESTING AND NON-DETECT PFAS:

In 2024 all drinking water test results were reported as satisfactory including PFAS compounds that have resulted in a non-detect.

WATER TOWERS PROJECT: The District secured a 2024 Congressional Directed Spending Grant of four hundred thousand dollars. The 500,000-gallon tank will be updated including leak repair, hatch cover replacement as well as cleaning and painting.

This project is the first of many planned projects for the drinking water system. In the future the district will be looking to replace old water mains that have been in service for close to or more than 100 years. More to come in the future on these needed projects.

EMPLOYEES:

David Harrison – Dave came from Georgia with wastewater licenses, where he worked at a treatment plant for 3 years prior to moving to Maine. He has been with RUD since 2019, and has his water and sewer licenses. He moved to Maine to enjoy four seasons; he likes to camp and tinker in his free time with various outdoor projects.

Ivory Petroff – Ivory grew up in Richmond. Before working at RUD, he worked for Vortex Services/Ted Berry Company for 6 years, and prior to that worked for Ray Labbe and Sons for nearly 10. Both companies are contractors that RUD will hire on occasion for maintenance and emergency work. He has been with the District since January 2024. He is working towards getting all of his water and sewer licenses, and has already gotten his Water Treatment II license. He enjoys playing music, and is in two bands that perform locally around the state. Ivory is working towards taking on the responsibilities of the superintendent in the near future.

Robin Verow – Robin grew up in the Gardiner area and has been with RUD for almost 11 years. She was previously employed as an office manager with a land surveying company and as an office manager in the food industry. Robin loves to garden, spend time with her family and friends, and take trips to the coast.

RICHMOND UTILITIES TRUSTEES:

The District is overseen by an elected board of three trustees. Currently Nate Bodge serves as the Chairman, Dana Tuttle serves as the Treasurer and Jeremy Bechard serves as the Clerk.

The trustees invite any citizen whom would like to tour your drinking water and/or wastewater systems to call the District at 207-737-4721 and set up a time to see your facilities.