



VILLAGE OF SCARSDALE

March 27, 2017

**2017 Village of Scarsdale Water Rate Changes**

The Village Board of Trustees approved increases in water use charges and sewer rent fees for 2017. The new fees and charges will be reflected in the quarterly water bills dated August 1, 2017, for water used during portions of the months of March, April, May, and June. Monthly water customers will be billed at the new rates starting with the May 2017 water bills, representing water used since late March. Both the existing and new fee schedules are reflected below:

**Scarsdale Quarterly and Monthly Accounts**

	Old Rate	New Rate
Base Rate (First 50 Units*)	\$2.50	\$2.85
Excess Rate	3.5 x Base Rate (no change)	3.5 x Base Rate (no change)

\*One unit = approximately 749 gallons (or one hundred cubic feet)

**Eastchester Quarterly and Monthly Accounts and  
Non-Scarsdale, Non-Eastchester Quarterly Accounts**

	Old Rate	New Rate
Base Rate (First 50 Units*)	\$3.43	\$3.91
Excess Rate	3.5 x Base Rate (no change)	3.5 x Base Rate (no change)

\*One unit = approximately 749 gallons (or one hundred cubic feet)

The above increases are necessary to make improvements to critical water infrastructure, as well as to keep pace with evolving environmental and regulatory requirements. Examples of work funded through the additional revenues derived from the fees include:

- Rehabilitation of the Ardsley Road and Boniface Water Tanks;
- Cement relining portions of the 97-miles of water mains; and
- Various distribution network rehabilitation work, including water valve replacements.

Importantly, the Village of Scarsdale has worked aggressively to keep water rates, fees, and charges among the lowest in Westchester County. The new rates remain very competitive, while at the same time generating adequate revenue to make necessary infrastructure repairs and upgrades. We appreciate your continued cooperation and understanding of the necessity for these cost increases as the Village works to maintain and improve the water utility and sewer systems. Should you have any questions about this change please call the Scarsdale Water Department at (914)-722-1138.

Please also note that the reverse side of this notification provides important water conservation strategies that can help to reduce your consumption and save money.

## **Monitor, Measure, and Conserve**

### *Avoid Large Water Bills*

**Key Concept:** Outdoor irrigation is associated with the highest water bills in Scarsdale, and they can be *very high*.

***Tip:*** One of the simplest ways to decrease water used for irrigation is to limit the turf areas that require a large amount of water, along with plants that have moderate to high water needs. Replace such plants and turf areas with hearty, local, native plants that can survive with less water *and* less maintenance.

***Tip:*** If you must irrigate, invest in the latest smart irrigation system controllers that account for such things as soil moisture, the weather forecast, soil and plant types, and other important variables that can save you a lot of money by reducing unnecessary sprinkling.

***Tip:*** Ask your landscaper about grasscycling and mulch mowing of leaves to help reduce water loss through evapotranspiration; this may also reduce the use of lawn fertilizers, as well as the overall cost of your landscaping service contract.

***Tip:*** Consider rainwater capture as a means to reduce consumption associated with outdoor watering. Rain barrels are one option, but larger capacity solutions are available. Countries like Australia are far ahead of the United States in deploying rainwater harvesting strategies, yet many American communities not only use excessive quantities of drinking water for non-drinking purposes, but also suffer adverse consequences associated with stormwater runoff that could be captured on-site and used productively, instead. The Scarsdale Parks, Recreation & Conservation Department offers rain barrels for residents use free of charge.

**Key Concept:** Water leaks are expensive and knowing your usage is critical to recognize when your money is running down the drain – don't wait for your bill to alert you of a problem.

***Tip:*** Use real-time leak detection linked to your mobile device. A variety of commercial products will not only generate alerts when usage deviates from your norm, but also help you to gather data necessary to understanding how much water you use and when – all key touchpoints for understanding how best to conserve, and therefore reduce your water bill.

**Key Concept:** Over 80% of routine in-home water consumption is associated with the following: toilets (27%), clothes washers (22%), showers (17%), and faucets (16%).

***Tip:*** Invest in EPA WaterSense labelled products, which perform as well as their counterparts, but with at least 20% less water use. Installing low flow shower heads and aerator screens on faucets can also help to reduce water consumption without changing one's behavior. Consider investing in an "instant hot water heater," rather than relying on hot water tanks.

**Tip:** Change your behavior. Pay attention to the small things, e.g., turn off the water while brushing your teeth, take a shorter shower and turn off the water while washing, take a shower instead of a bath, etc.