

Ridgewood Water Weekly

October 17, 2025

Hydrant Flushing Starts on Sunday

As part of Ridgewood Water's annual preventive maintenance program, utility crews will be flushing hydrants during the last two weeks of October, weather conditions permitting.

Flushing will take place from **9:00 pm to 4:30 am from October 19 through 24** (Sunday night through Friday morning) and **October 26 through 30** (Sunday night through Thursday morning).

Please note: You may experience temporary low water pressure or discoloration of your water. Any discolored water is from mineral deposits dislodged during the flushing process and is not a health or safety concern. We recommend running cold water at the lowest tub or sink for a few minutes before doing laundry or using the dishwasher in order to clear the water.

Also recommended: bypassing any home filtration systems during the flushing process, as mineral deposits could load the filter membrane.

To find out when hydrant flushing is expected to take place in your neighborhood, visit water.ridgewoodnj.net.

PFAS Treatment Progress

It was an exciting week at Ridgewood Water! Granular Activated Carbon vessels were delivered to the Ames PFAS Treatment Facility in Wyckoff (left), and Resin Ion Exchange vessels were delivered to the West End PFAS Treatment Facility in Ridgewood. When operational next year, the six vessels at Ames will treat up to **2.1 million gallons of water per day**. And the two vessels at West End will treat up to **620,000 gallons of water per day**. All regulated PFAS compounds will be undetectable in the treated water, surpassing the EPA standard of 4 parts per trillion.



Statewide Drought Watch Still in Effect

Despite the coastal storm over the weekend, New Jersey remains in a statewide Drought Watch. **All residents are asked to follow water conservation practices, and to use water wisely, particularly when using water outdoors.**

Ridgewood Water Weekly

October 24, 2025

Behind the Scenes at Ridgewood Water



A hydroexcavator identifying the material of a service line that is currently unknown in our records.



Collecting water treatment samples.



Installing a raw water main that will connect satellite wells to the new PFAS Treatment Facilities.



The delivery of granular activated carbon vessels at the Ames PFAS Treatment Facility in Wyckoff.

Ridgewood Water Weekly

November 7, 2025

PFAS Treatment Progress

Two Resin Ion Exchange vessels were recently delivered to the East Ridgewood PFAS Treatment Facility in Ridgewood. When operational next year, the facility will treat up to **1.19 million gallons of water per day**. All regulated PFAS compounds will be undetectable in the treated water, surpassing the EPA standard of 4 parts per trillion.

By the end of 2026, 11 of the 12 new PFAS Treatment Facilities will be fully operational. The final facility is expected to come online in the first quarter of 2027. This achievement means our system-wide project will be completed **four years ahead** of the Environmental Protection Agency's 2031 compliance deadline.



Will You Take a Brief Survey?

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is conducting a brief survey to better understand community awareness and concerns about PFAS in drinking water. Can you spare five minutes to take this anonymous survey? **The deadline is November 30.** Your feedback will help shape public health planning, education and response efforts. The survey is available at: surveymonkey.com/r/pfaswatersurvey

A Family Tradition of Service

When Neil Gallone began his career at Ridgewood Water as an intern 25 years ago, he became the **fourth generation** of family members to work at the utility! Cornelius Howard joined Ridgewood Water in the 1940s, followed by his son-in-law, John Gallone, in 1963, then Neil Gallone Sr. in 1978 and finally Neil Gallone Jr. in 2000 (pictured with his father). Currently, Neil serves as the manager of our Geographic Information Systems division, which is responsible for mapping, storing and analyzing physical assets such as water mains, valves, service lines, fire hydrants, wells, tanks and treatment centers. "I trust our water," said Neil, whose family members have lived in Midland Park for more than 200 years. "Our water is more regulated, tested and treated than bottled water and doesn't come in plastic containers." *Neil was featured in the June 2025 issue of Ridgewood Living.*

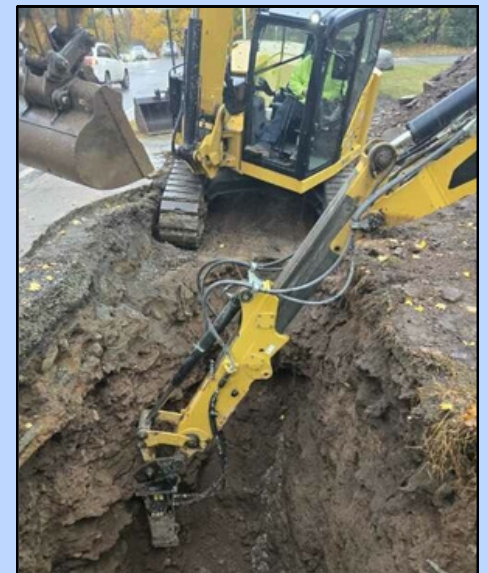


Ridgewood Water Weekly

November 14, 2025

Booster Station Progress

Ridgewood Water crews were up early on Wednesday, excavating a 22-foot-deep hole to house a new booster pump that will improve water flow to a low-pressure area. The process involved jackhammering through six feet of rock (pictured) on Glen Avenue in Ridgewood! **The pump is expected to be fully installed and operational well ahead of next year's peak season.**



Archaeological Discoveries

During the engineering and planning phase of the Cedar Hill PFAS Treatment Facility, archaeological studies revealed remarkable 18th-century artifacts, including the stone foundation of a home that once belonged to a French immigrant who settled in what would later become Wyckoff Township in the mid-1700s. We invite you to **explore the blog posts on our website** to learn about Hunter Research's archaeological investigations, which offer fascinating insights into the daily lives of the area's earliest settlers.



Did You Schedule Your Blowout?

Winter may not be on your radar screen, but it IS time to prepare your sprinkler system for the colder months. If you haven't already done so, **schedule your system winterization**. If you fail to "blow out" your system before temperatures consistently dip below 32 degrees, you run the risk that residual water in the pipes and valves will freeze, potentially leading to breaks, leaks, costly repairs and a higher water bill.

Ridgewood Water Weekly

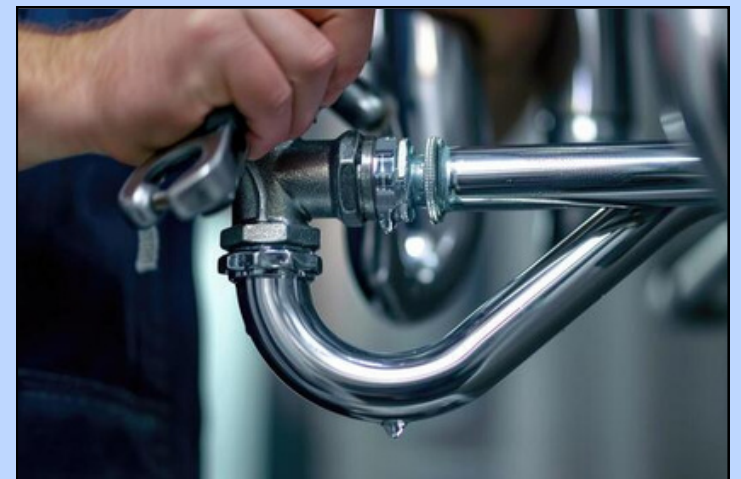
December 5, 2025

Statewide Drought Warning in Effect

Despite recent rains, the extended period of below average rainfall has had significant impacts on water supply, leaving New Jersey in a Statewide Drought Warning. Residents are asked to follow water conservation practices, and to use water wisely.

Winter Water Conservation Tips

- Check for leaks around your home. A dripping faucet can waste several thousand gallons of water a year. And a leaky toilet can waste about 200 gallons of water a day.
- Consider installing low-flow shower heads and faucets.
- Shorten your shower by a minute or two, and turn off the water while brushing your teeth.
- Insulate hot water pipes to reduce the amount of time it takes for the water to “run hot.”
- Run your dishwasher only when it’s full, and use the garbage disposal sparingly.
- Use rain barrels to collect rainwater from your gutter system for future use in your garden or yard.



Experts Urge Smarter Salt Use

With winter weather closing in, the annual push to keep roads, parking lots, sidewalks and driveways free from ice has begun. While salt remains an essential tool for safety, experts are urging municipalities, contractors and property owners to take a more measured approach this season - one that balances public safety with the long-term protection of local drinking water sources.

1. Clear walkways before snow turns to ice, and before you apply salt. The more snow you clear manually, the less salt you'll need.
2. Salt doesn't melt ice if the pavement is below 15 degrees F. So use sand for traction when it's too cold, or choose a different deicer such as calcium chloride.
3. Use salt only when it's critical, and apply sparingly. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway. Once pavement has a light, even coating, additional salt offers little extra benefit and is more likely to wash into waterways.
4. Only apply salt where absolutely necessary, keeping it away from storm drains and waterways.
5. Once the snow and ice have melted, leftover salt should be swept up, which prevents it from being washed into storm drains during the next thaw or rainfall.

Ridgewood Water Weekly

December 26, 2025

Statewide Drought Warning Still in Effect

The recent snowfall did not significantly improve water supply conditions, according to the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection. Longstanding dry conditions will need multiple months of consistent flows to allow water supply conditions to recover. As a result, New Jersey remains under a Statewide Drought Warning. **Residents are encouraged to continue following water conservation practices and to use water responsibly.**

Protect Your Pipes!

A burst pipe can release a significant amount of water in a very short period of time. This is why knowing how to shut off your main water valve quickly and taking preventive steps during cold weather are critical.

Insulate exposed pipes. Pipes located in unheated areas—such as basements, crawl spaces, attics, garages and exterior walls—should be insulated with foam pipe sleeves, fiberglass wrap or heat tape rated for plumbing use.



Seal air leaks. Cold air entering through gaps near pipes can cause rapid freezing. Seal cracks around windows, doors, vents and where pipes enter the home using caulk or spray foam.

Maintain consistent indoor heat. Keep your thermostat set to a steady temperature day and night, even if you are away. Interior warmth helps protect pipes within walls and ceilings.

Allow warm air to circulate. Open cabinet doors under sinks—especially those on exterior walls—to allow heated air to reach plumbing. This is particularly important during extended cold spells.

Let faucets drip during extreme cold. A slow, steady drip from faucets connected to vulnerable pipes can prevent freezing by keeping water moving. Even a small flow can reduce pressure buildup if ice begins to form.

Protect outdoor plumbing. Disconnect garden hoses, shut off and drain exterior faucets if possible, and install insulated faucet covers. Failure to do this is a common cause of winter pipe damage.

Locate your main water shutoff valve. And ensure all household members know how to operate it. In the event a pipe freezes or bursts, shutting off the water quickly can significantly limit damage.