

# **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CAROLINA BEACH CITIZENS**

## **TAMPERING WITH METERS**

- Per North Carolina General Statute 14-151.1, it shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to alter, tamper with, or bypass a meter which has been installed for the purpose of measuring the use of water or knowingly to use water passing through any such tampered meter or water bypassing a meter provided by the town for the purpose of measuring and registering the quantity of water consumed. Any meter or service entrance facility found to have been altered, tampered with, or bypassed in a manner that would cause such meter to inaccurately measure and register the water consumed, or which would cause the water to be diverted from the recording apparatus of the meter, shall be prima facie evidence of intent to violate and of the violation of this section by the person in whose name such meter is installed, or the person or persons so using or receiving the benefits of such unmetered, unregistered, or diverted water. Any person(s) not authorized by the town operating any valves on the distribution system, which included the cut off valve at the meter, hydrants, etc. shall be charged with tampering.
- Any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.
- Whoever is found in a civil and/or criminal action to have violated any provisions of this section shall be liable to the town; losses shall be fined the amount of \$500.00 and shall also be charged for the cost to repair and or replace any damages sustained, the next occurrence would double the \$500.00 fine and any cost of damages.

**If you need to have repairs done at your property, please contact the Billing Department at 910-458-2983 or 910-458-4821 to have a Town employee turn the water off at the meter. Once repairs are completed, contact the Billing Department and we will turn the water back on.**

A \$150.00 fine will be charged to customers who illegally cut on their own water. Civil and criminal penalties also apply.

If water is cut on illegally after disconnection due to nonpayment of a utility bill, this will cause the removal of the water meter. In addition to the \$150.00 fine, there will be a charge of \$75.00 to have the meter replaced.

## **PROHIBITED USES**

- No consumer shall be allowed to supply or sell water to other persons, families, or corporations, nor shall any person take or carry away water from any hydrant, watering trough, or public fountain.
- The fire hydrants are for the use of the fire department for fighting fires, and are not to be used by any unauthorized person for any purpose, unless permitted by the Town Manager or Public Utility Director.

## **GREASE LIDS**

The 5<sup>th</sup> annual Island Day was held on Sunday September 28<sup>th</sup>. The Town of Carolina Beach, water and sewer division had a booth set up and we handed out grease lids to residents. These lids are designed to fit on cans as a way to dispose of cooking grease properly instead pouring down the drain. After cooking, pour grease into a can and place the lid on the can. You can continue to use the same can until full. Once full, remove the lid and toss the can into the trash.

The fats in the grease and oil from your kitchen mix with the other chemicals in the sewers and form nasty conglomerations of chemicals that can build up and block the pipes that take our dirty water to the wastewater treatment plant. According to a recent review, fat and oil build ups caused about 47% of the estimated 36,000 sewer overflows that happen annually in the U.S.

Please stop by the Billing Department at Town Hall to pick up a grease lid if you missed us at Island Day.