

UTILITY *Talk*

NATURAL GAS

WATER

WASTEWATER

STREET LIGHTING

Prevent West Nile Virus

With summer underway, it's time to practice vigilance against West Nile Virus, an illness which is transmitted to humans from the bite of infected mosquitoes.

Twenty percent of people who become infected with West Nile Virus develop West Nile fever. Symptoms include fever, headache, tiredness, and body aches, occasionally with a skin rash and swollen lymph glands.

A severe case may also include a stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, coma, tremors convulsions, muscle weakness or paralysis.

People over age 50 and immunocompromised people, such as transplant patients or those with AIDS, are at a higher risk for developing severe symptoms.

Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds and spread West Nile Virus when they bite humans.

The more time you spend outdoors, the higher your likelihood of being bitten by a mosquito. Wear light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants and try to avoid being outside in the early morning and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.

Apply 40 percent DEET insect repellent on adults and 30 percent



DEET on children. (Do not use DEET repellent on infants.) Oil of Lemon eucalyptus and Picaridin are recommended alternative repellents. Spray the repellent directly onto your clothes, not your skin.

Mosquitos can breed in as little as a teaspoon of standing water, so empty any containers or objects outside the home that hold rainwater. Eliminate any conditions that allow stagnant water to accumulate and check around the house regularly for standing pools.

Install or repair window screens to keep mosquitoes out of the house.

Organize neighborhood cleanups to search for standing water in vacant lots. Report untended pools, discarded tires and drainage ditches with standing water to 644-3000.

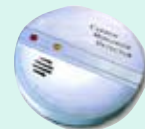
National Drinking Water Week winners!

Congratulations to Michele Satterlund and Vanessa Cobert, winners of the National Drinking Water Week drawing. Each year the Department of Public Utilities joins with fellow American Water Works Association members to underscore the importance of safe, quality drinking water and recognize the vital role water plays in our daily lives.

Get a carbon monoxide detector for your home

If furnaces and fireplaces are not working properly, they could produce carbon monoxide (CO). The best defense against carbon monoxide poisoning is to have furnaces and fireplaces serviced regularly and to purchase a CO detector with a backup battery. Post it five feet above the floor, or on the ceiling, and 15 feet away from furnaces or gas heaters.

Never use charcoal grills or gasoline burning devices indoors and never use a gas oven to provide heat.



**IMPORTANT
PHONE NUMBERS**

Customer Service: 644-3000 TDD: 1-800-855-1155
Streetlight Outages & Gas, Water & Sewer Emergencies: 644-3000 TDD: 1-800-855-1155
Miss Utility: (Before You Dig): 811 or 1-800-552-7001



CITY OF RICHMOND
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



Save electricity with outdoor gas grill

If you haven't made natural gas your choice for outdoor cooking yet, consider a gas grill. Then you'll never have to worry about exchanging propane cylinders again. Cooking outdoors keeps the house cool and your electric bill lower.

Firing up a gas grill is as easy as turning a knob and hitting a button. On gas grills, you can turn the heat up or down so you can correctly cook any type of food, or even different foods at different temperatures on either side of the grill.

Gas grills heat up quickly and cool down in a relatively short time for easy cleaning – no waiting for the



last embers of charcoal to burn out.

Call the Department of Public Utilities Energy Services Division at 646-5250 for more information on how you can start cooking with

gas – indoors or out! Or email dpuenergyservices@richmondgov.com and learn how you can convert your heat, hot water, stove, fireplace or clothes dryer to natural gas!

Celebrate summer with a colorful treat

It's time for fresh, healthy fruit at your summertime cookouts! While your food is cooking on your new gas grill, make a quick, easy, red, white and blue dessert to dazzle family and friends.

Bake a white layer cake from a mix and let it cool completely, or buy an angel food cake, slice it in half horizontally, and then spread a layer of whipped cream or Cool Whip on top.

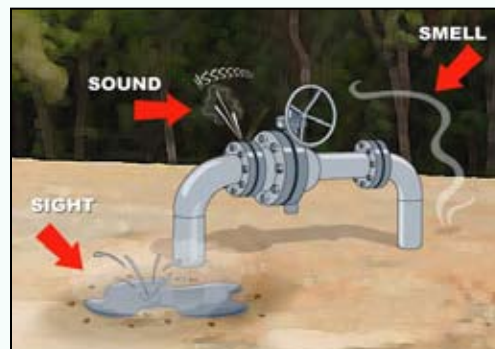


Slice fresh, hulled strawberries lengthwise into 1/8 inch thick slices and overlap in a circular pattern. Dot fresh blueberries between each fold of strawberries on the edge and serve!

What is Mercaptan?

Natural gas in its native state is colorless and odorless. Mercaptan is an additive added to natural gas to make it easier to detect in the event of a leak. Mercaptan has a very strong smell, similar to rotten eggs.

If Mercaptan was not added, it would be hard for you to know if natural gas was coming from your unlit stove, furnace or if your hot water heater was leaking. This makes Mercaptan a very valuable



safety feature. In addition to smell, gas leaks can also be detected by hissing sounds or bubbles in standing water.

DID YOU KNOW...?

▲ One sip of bottled water costs you one thousand times the amount of a sip of tap water.

▲ Every year, 1.5 million tons of plastic go into manufacturing water bottles for the global market. In the U.S., 1.5 million barrels of oil are consumed making plastic water bottles, most of which end up in landfills.

▲ Water that is bottled in plastic and stored over time tends to leech out components from the plastic containers. Reusing plastic bottles can introduce bacteria into your system, resulting in gastrointestinal ailments.

▲ More than 25 percent of bottled water sold in the U.S. actually originates from public water systems, with additional carbon filtration, ozonation or no additional treatment at all before bottling.

▲ How you store your water is as important as the quality itself. Use glass containers or #7 plastic bottles. For cold water, fill containers halfway and freeze. When you want cold water, fill the bottle the rest of the way with cool tap water.

▲ Bottled water that contains flavoring and sugar is not subject to the same quality regulations as other bottled waters.

