

**Waterford Village Wide Meeting**

**Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in the Old School**

**to discuss a**

**Waterford Application for the County Water Assistance Program**



Dear Waterford Village Property Owner,

As you know, Waterford faces challenges in ensuring a sustainable water supply for homes and structures in the village. “An unusually high proportion of wells in the village have low or very low well yields in comparison to other areas in Western Loudoun County.”<sup>[1]</sup> Some of the Waterford Foundation properties have no water or wastewater systems at all. Wells of several homes ran dry last year and one household had to drill a new well. Previous and ongoing consultations among property owners find substantial interest in trying to address these water sustainability challenges.

**County Water Program:** Last year Loudoun County announced its new **Water and Wastewater Program** that may help us begin to evaluate our future water sustainability needs, if we qualify. **The deadline for application in 2018 is March 31<sup>st</sup> so an opportunity exists to revisit this issue, and ascertain if a majority<sup>[2]</sup> of Waterford property owners support the village in applying for County consideration.** Four communities are already participating from the County Water Program: Hillsboro, Paeonian Springs; Aldie, and ‘The Marshes’ sub-division. **A meeting to discuss the merits of such an application is scheduled next Wednesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm in the Old School.** Two County Officers will brief us on the progress made and lessons learned to date: Dennis

Cumbie, Division Manager of the Water and Sanitation Program and Scott Fincham, Water Program Specialist. There will be time for questions and open discussion among property owners. A copy of the application begun last year will be available for those wanting to sign.

Last year's exploratory discussions showed interest exists to work on an application for this Program that reflects Waterford's water supply needs, its historic context, and questions requiring answers. Two potential goals for Waterford's *possible* application to the Program include:

- (1) *exploring potential low-cost, appropriate solutions for any residence or structure in the Waterford village historic district for which water is currently supplied in a precarious way, (i.e., no well, shared well, hand dug-well, low-flow well) and*
- (2) *examining more broadly potential risks to long-term sustainability of water supply for the historic district, such as lowered water table from surrounding residential developments or possible future spells of drought.*

As mentioned above, we would need the confirmed interest of a majority of our estimated 110 village property owners to be able to submit an application. The County will then determine if we meet their criteria for eligibility. The County selects only two applications per year; and we may not get accepted this first time around.

**What Waterford's Application would mean:** Waterford's application at this stage will only signify we would like the County to consider us for the program; **not that we agree to accept any services or projects** they might recommend subsequently if we are deemed eligible.

- ***Financial implications of signing the application:*** Signature on the application *does not* carry a financial obligation. Scott Fincham, of the County's Water Program states in writing: “The owner's signature on the application indicates that the

information provided on the application is correct to the best of their knowledge and that they support working with the County to find a solution to their community water and/or wastewater problem. **It does not carry a financial obligation and it is not a financial commitment from the property owner.** And yes; assisting the community with trying to locate grants and other financial assistance is part of the process.”

- ***Inclusion of vacant lots:*** The program is designed for existing eligible structures. Water connections would not be made to vacant lots that could be developed in the future. However, a new structure on a vacant lot could in the future connect if located near water pipes. There are some single vacant lots within the village boundary on which a newly built structure could be eligible for hook up, although no new structures are planned at this time. County officials confirm that the 18-lot subdivision approved in 1988 along High Street mentioned in the community meeting last year was never recorded, and are virtually certain, approval is no longer valid.
- ***Map used to identify village boundaries and residents for the application process:*** In discussion on water needs, there appears a wish to be more inclusive than exclusive. Per the advice of the County Office of Mapping, the Village Conservation Overlay Boundary, attached (boundary in green) is the map we would use in the application<sup>[3]</sup>. Property owners within these boundaries have been invited to sign the application if interested. Also, of importance, is the map of the existing sewage system (also attached).

If the Waterford application is chosen by the County to move forward, a feasibility study is performed and the County offers Waterford one or several options to addressing its water challenges. The village property owners would reconvene *before* making any final decisions to accept any of the options proposed. We recognize that views differ markedly in the village regarding

adequacy of water, and would like to see the County Program include more in the way of solutions that address communities with varying needs within a small geographic space, like ours.

See [www.loudoun.gov/waterprojects](http://www.loudoun.gov/waterprojects) for more information on the Program. If you can't make the meeting: feel free to contact me at 540 303 0734 if you have any clarifications you would like made at the meeting.

[1] Psaris, Patti et al. Chair, Ad Hoc Water Supply Committee of the Waterford Foundation Inc. Nov. 2011

[2] The application says 60% of residents but the County has accepted applications with percentages over 50%

[3] County Map of Waterford Village, # 2015 189 printed by the County's Office of Mapping.  
Addresses included in the map range from 40090 – 15716 (by street: 40108-40170 Bond, 15520-15545 Butchers, 40200 Church, 15707-15716 Clarkes Gap, 15653-15679 Factory, 40222-40273 Fairfax, 40900 First, 15545-15676 High, 40143-40171 Janney, 15484-15514 Loyalty, 40105-40221 Main, 40170-40189 Patrick, 15479-15640 Second, 40188-40266 Water.)