

Basics of Proposed Water System



WHAT A municipal water system constructed as **new development** occurs.

WHY Groundwater analysis performed last year for the Regional Water System Feasibility Study indicates that groundwater reserves in northwest Guilford County are likely plentiful. In some areas, however, groundwater is difficult to access or may be contaminated by MTBEs (a blending component of gasoline) from underground storage tanks or by heavy metals such as uranium or radium. A municipal system with community wells tested and monitored by the Town will improve access to **safe, reliable water** for Oak Ridge residents.



HOW Developers of new residential subdivisions of 30 lots or more will be required to construct a community well system to serve their neighborhood. Once constructed and inspected, the well(s) and water mains system will be turned over to the Town for operation and maintenance. As the system grows and new neighborhoods are served, opportunities for connections and expansion will increase, providing **redundancy** and the potential for flows great enough for **fire suppression**.

WHO Only homes in subdivisions proposed after the ordinance approval date (9/5/19) will be required to connect. New lots created by subdivision within 300 feet of existing water lines may also be required to connect if feasible. Voluntary connections will be allowed and encouraged if capacity allows.



Only users of the system will pay for the proposed water system. Oak Ridge already has funding reserved for water which will be used to pay for initial start-up costs. This fund will gradually be repaid as new customers are added to the system.