

The Gazebo

This year, we are dedicating our Annual Newsletter, “The Gazebo”, to Beverly Bathgate. Bev has been with the Branchville Municipal Government for over 44 years.

Bev was born and raised in Hainesville (Sandyston Township). She is a graduate of Newton High School and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Montclair State University in 1970. She also earned a New Jersey Certified Tax Collector, Registered Municipal Clerk and Registrar of Vital Statistics certification from Rutgers University.

Bev has remained active in the Branchville community during her tenure with the Borough. She has chaired several committees and served as Secretary/Treasurer of Branchville’s 175th anniversary committee. She is a charter member of the Branchville Borough Historical Society and played a major role in obtaining the room for and setting up the museum. She is a member of the Branchville United Methodist Church, having served on many committees, and as Sunday School teacher and Superintendent.

Bev has decided to retire from the Branchville Municipal Government at the conclusion of 2026.



Congratulations Bev, and Thank You!!



2026

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Editors: Kate Leissler and Beverly Bathgate

Graphic Design / Typesetting: Lorie Laux



News from Borough Hall

Branchville Borough Council

Mayor:	Anthony (Tony) Frato, Sr.	(973) 903-3792 (cell)
Council President:	Richard VanStone	(973) 948-5888 (home)
Council Members:	Tania Bansemer	(973) 222-4086 (cell)
	Beverly Bathgate	(973) 948-3721 (home)
	Russell Bellis, Jr.	(973) 343-9154 (cell)
	H. Lee Doremus	(973) 948-5439 (home)
	Jeffrey Lewis	(973) 479-7203 (cell)

Branchville Borough Meeting Schedule

Mayor and Council:	First Wednesday of each month at 7pm
Planning Board:	Second Wednesday of each month at 7pm – as needed
Board of Health:	Second Thursday of each month at 7pm – as needed

All meetings are held at the Branchville Borough Municipal Building, 34 Wantage Avenue, Branchville, unless otherwise advertised.

Branchville Borough Website

Please visit us at www.branchvilleborough.org for information you may need.

News from Borough Hall

Branchville Borough Staff Directory

Business Hours are 9:00am – 1:00pm – Monday thru Friday

Mayor	Anthony Frato, Sr. (973) 903-3792 (cell)	(973) 948-4626, press #20
Municipal Clerk, Registrar, Tax Collector, Water Collector	Kathryn "Kate" Leissler	(973) 948-4626, press #20
Chief Financial Officer	Christine Rolef	(973) 948-4626, press #25
Tax Assessor (First and Third Thursday, 9am-10am or by appointment)	Kristy Lockburner	(973) 948-4626, press #22 klockburnercta@yahoo.com
Construction Official/Plumbing Inspector (Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-5:30)	Paul Black Jack Bell	(973) 948-4626, press #24 (973) 948-4626, press #24
Plumbing Subcode Fire Subcode/Building Inspector/Building Subcode (Tuesday and Thursday, 3:30-5:30)	Paul Black	(973) 948-4626, press #24
Zoning Officer	George Boesze	(973) 948-4626 OR (570) 992-3686
Code Enforcement Officer	Keith Whitehead	(973) 600-3808
Sussex County Fire Marshall	Mark Snook	(973) 579-0380
Department of Public Works	Brian Peck Robert Garman	(973) 948-5515
Planning and Zoning Board Secretary, Finance Secretary, Deputy Municipal Clerk/Deputy, Registrar/Sewer Collector	Karen Braun	(973) 948-4626, press #21 or #23
Board of Health Secretary	Sharon Marino	(973) 876-9942
Animal Control Officer (Wantage)	Melanie Monastra	(973) 875-9390
Dog Licensing	Catherine Whitehead	(973) 862-0729

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY CELL PHONE NUMBERS LISTED ABOVE ARE PERSONAL CELL PHONES. PLEASE CALL DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS AND RESPECT THEIR PRIVACY DURING NON-BUSINESS HOURS. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, THESE CELL PHONE NUMBERS CAN BE USED DURING WORK AND NON-WORKING HOURS.

The 2026 schedule for the **Zoning Officer** (George Boesze) is listed below. Please call George Boesze at the number listed above to confirm his availability. Office hours are on the 3rd Monday of each month, from 1:00pm-3:00pm.

January 19	February 9	March 16	April 20
May 18	June 15	July 20	August 17
September 21	October 19	November 16	December 14



News from Borough Hall

Water Works

Residents may **not** shut off their own water. This must be done by the Road Department Personnel only. Please call **(973) 948-5515** if you need to have this done. This is to protect you and the Borough from a water leak. In the event that there is a break, the person who caused it will be held responsible. There is an on/off fee for each service request.

Mail Boxes

If residents have their mail delivered to a mailbox on their property, the mailboxes **must** be placed in a location as advised by the U.S. Postal Service (specifically due to snow plowing). Please follow the requirements set by the U.S. Postal Service for your mailbox placement. **Please clear your mailbox of snow immediately following a storm and make room for the delivering mail truck.**

Municipal Court

The Borough of Branchville has a shared court service with Wantage Township for municipal court needs. For additional information, please call **(973) 875-7310**.

Access to Borough Hall

If you need to come to Borough Hall, please press the button by the front door. When you hear the buzz, you must pull the left door open **(it does not open automatically)**.

News from Borough Hall

Dog Cleanup

The Mayor and Borough Council are requesting that dog walkers clean up after their dogs. Please be considerate of others and clean up after your pet and dispose of the waste properly. Do not leave bags of pet feces at inappropriate locations or on the lawns of other residents in town. **PLEASE DO NOT LEAVE BAGS OF FECES ON THE GROUND!** There are many trash cans located through the Borough for your disposal use or take it home and dispose of it in the trash. **If anyone is caught violating this, action will be taken.** Please keep all dogs on leashes – this is to protect the dog and people.



Feral Cats

The Borough of Branchville is attempting to control the increasing number of feral cats in Branchville. Please **DO NOT** feed them. If you feed them, you are responsible for them and any fees that may be incurred. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Dog Licensing

All dogs that are 7 months or older are required to be licensed, per the New Jersey statute. The Dog License Registration form is on the following page.

**Please keep this form for your use
at the end of 2026**

BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH 2027 DOG LICENSE

It's that time of the year again, and dog licenses will be issued after January 1, 2027. If your pet's rabies shot has expired, we will be unable to issue a license until proof of rabies vaccination is presented with an expiration date of at least November 1, 2027.

2027 fees are:

Regular License..... \$15.00

Additional fee for any dog(s) NOT spayed or neutered \$ 3.00*

TOTAL FEE FOR UNALTERED DOG(S) \$18.00

It is strongly advised that you obtain your dog license in a timely manner. If your dog is eligible for licensing and is not licensed by February 1, 2027, a summons may be issued which involves a court appearance. There is a \$5.00 per month late fee. For assistance or questions, please call 973-948-4626.

**PLEASE NOTE – DOGS OVER THE AGE OF SIX MONTHS MUST BE LICENSED.
RABIES CERTIFICATION IS MANDATORY PRIOR TO ISSUANCE OF LICENSE.**

NOTE: IF YOU NO LONGER HAVE A DOG(S), PLEASE CALL 973-948-4626.

You may submit your dog's application by mail to:

Branchville Borough, 34 Wantage Ave. Branchville NJ 07826 Attention: Catherine Whitehead or in person.

Please enclose the following:

SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE

RABIES CERTIFICATE

CHECK PAYABLE TO BRANCHVILLE BOROUGH

PROOF OF SPAYING OR NEUTERING
(only send in once)

COMPLETED FORM

-----**Fill Out & Return Bottom Portion**-----

Owner's Name _____ Dog's name _____

Owner's Mailing Address _____

Street Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Description of Dog _____ Male _____ Female _____

Breed _____

(If mixed, list the predominant breed, i.e.: German Shepherd Mix)

Age: _____ Hair: Long _____ Short _____ Medium _____

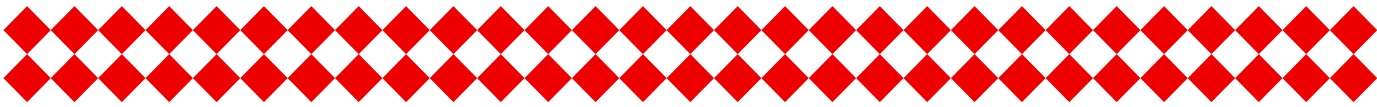
Color & Markings _____

Date of Spaying/Neutering _____ by _____
(proof enclosed)

Dog's Name _____

Is dog kept at different address? If so, please provide address:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!



News from Borough Hall

Tax Bill Information

The Tax Bill for the August 1, 2026, November 1, 2026, February 1, 2027 and May 1, 2027 quarters will be mailed as quickly as possible, after the rate has been certified. Occasionally, there is a delay in mailing the tax bills due to the adoption of other municipal or state budgets. If your bill is mailed late, it will clearly indicate that payment of your taxes is due 25 days from the date of mailing by the tax collector. If payment is not received 25 days after the date of mailing, interest will be charged, calculated back to August 1, 2026.

NOTE: It is extremely important that taxes, sewer and water bills be paid promptly, in a timely manner. Each year, Branchville Borough prepares their budget. One line item in the budget is to have a reserve for “Uncollected Taxes”. If taxes go unpaid, your neighbors are “filling in the gap” until you have paid your taxes and any accrued interest. We would appreciate if your taxes, sewer and water bills can be paid when due.

Separate checks are needed for the payment of taxes, sewer and water (please do not combine the tax, sewer and water payment into 1 check – **3 separate checks are required**). Partial payment for taxes, sewer and water will not be accepted. Partial payment checks will be returned to you. If you are paying with cash, please have the exact amount with you – the office is limited on cash to make change for you.

When you come into the office to pay your bills, please know the amount you owe (it is found on each of your bills) and have your separate checks ready. It takes a lot of time to look up each of your separate amounts. Thank you for your cooperation with our busy office staff.

Mailing Address Changes

If residents change their mailing address or add a mailbox with a street address, it is your responsibility to notify the municipal office of that change at your earliest convenience. You are still liable for your bills, even if your address on file is incorrect. If the Borough is not notified, this could result in your property being put on the **tax sale** for lack of payment of bills. This notice applies to your water and sewer bill as well.



News from Borough Hall

Facebook Questions and Comments

Any questions or comments on Facebook regarding various topics for Branchville will **not** be acknowledged or answered by Branchville Borough employees, the Mayor or Council Members.

Text Alerts from the Sussex County Clerk's Office

The Sussex County Clerk's Office of NJ offers our residents official updates from their office regarding elections, passports, notary commissions and more. For more information and to sign up for these free communications, go to **www.textmygov.com**.



TextMyGov



News from Borough Hall

Electric Bikes (e-bikes) and Scooters

To the Branchville Borough Residents and Parents:

The Branchville Borough Council would like to address an important community concern that has recently come to our attention – the growing use of electric bikes (e-bikes) and scooters by children and teenagers throughout our neighborhoods. While we recognize that these devices can be a fun and efficient way to get around, we have also received a number of reports from residents about unsafe riding behaviors, especially during the evening hours.

Many of these concerns involve young riders traveling at high speeds, riding without helmets or failing to follow traffic rules such as stopping at intersections or yielding to vehicles. In some cases, riders have been seen weaving through traffic or riding in the middle of the road after dark without proper lighting or reflective gear. These behaviors create serious safety hazards – not only for the young riders themselves but also for drivers and pedestrians who may not see them in time to avoid a collision.

We are asking parents and guardians to please talk with your children about the rules of the road and the responsibilities that come with riding e-bikes and scooters. Please remind them to:

- Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.
- Ride on the right side of the road, in the same direction as traffic.
- Use lights and reflectors when riding at dusk or after dark.
- Avoid distractions, such as using phones or headphones while riding.
- Be aware of cars entering or exiting driveways and intersections.

The Branchville Borough Council is following State regulations on e-bike and scooter safety. Our goal is not to discourage the use of these devices, but to promote responsible and respectful riding so that everyone – riders, drivers and pedestrians alike – can share our roads safely.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping our community safe and enjoyable for all. Thank you for your attention and for helping us remind our youth that safety should always come first.

Sincerely,

Branchville Borough Council



Utility News

Sewer News

COMMERCIAL SEWER USERS

It is recommended that you monitor your water usage. Sewer rates for commercial sewer users are based on water usage. Monitoring your meter means to check the usage monthly. Call the Department of Public Works at (973) 948-5515 if meter location help is needed or excessive use is noticed. Always check for any leaks.

Reporting a Power Outage or Streetlight Outage

If you need to report a power outage, please call JCP&L / First Energy at: **1-800-544-4877** or go online to **www.firstenergycorp.com**

If you need to report a streetlight outage, please call JCP&L / First Energy at: **1-800-662-3115** or go online to **www.firstenergycorp.com**

When reporting either of these outages online: click on “Contact Us” and fill in the appropriate information. Please have your account number available so you can reference it.

Call Before You Dig

Are you planning a home improvement project? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? **WAIT!!**

Before any digging on your property, this is what you need to know:

Excavation work, including digging or plowing around a home or business, is the most common cause of natural gas emergencies. Before digging around your property, New Jersey state law requires you to call **811**, a statewide, toll-free number, to have your utility lines professionally marked.

At least three business days prior to outdoor construction, planting, landscaping or digging, contractors or property owners – (whoever is excavating), must call New Jersey One Call at **811** or **1-800-272-1000**. After calling, you must wait until your local utilities, like Elizabethtown Gas, arrives. They will locate and mark, free of charge, each with a different color paint or flag, where their underground utility lines are within the area you want to dig.

Once that happens, you can dig with confidence, because you’ll know how to avoid any damage to these underground utility lines which might interrupt or hinder your services and potentially damage your property.

For additional information, visit New Jersey One Call: **www.nj1-call.org**



Branchville Food Pantries

NOTE: There is an increasing need for donations to both food pantries in the Borough.

The **Branchville Presbyterian Church** is located at 5 Wantage Avenue, Branchville. For more information, please call the Church Office at **(973) 948-3495**.

The **Branchville Methodist Church** is located at 8 Broad Street, Branchville. For more information, please call the Church Office at **(973) 948-3749**.



Events in 2026

Arbor Day 2026

The application has been submitted for 2025 Tree City USA for Branchville Borough (this runs one year behind which is why it is for 2025). Mayor Frato has proclaimed Friday, April 24, 2026 as Arbor Day.

Please do not prune any trees in the County or Borough right-of-way areas yourself – call the Borough Hall and we will do it. Some of our new trees are being damaged by individuals trying to prune these trees incorrectly. Do not cut down or remove any trees on the borough right-of-way on your property.

Miss Branchville 2026

The annual Miss Branchville contest will be held in the late spring/early summer. Any girls interested in entering the Miss Branchville contest should contact Debbie Anderson **(973) 948-6932** for further information.

Annual Branchville Borough Garage Sale

The annual Branchville Borough-wide garage sale will be held as follows, if possible:

DATE: Saturday, September 12, 2026

RAIN DATE: Sunday, September 13, 2026

TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Kate Leissler and Karen Braun in the Borough office will organize this event, including signups, preparation of the map showing locations and advertising. Please call Karen at **(973) 948-4626, extension #21** for additional information and if you would like to have your home listed on the map.

Free Rabies Clinic

Branchville Borough will provide a **FREE** rabies clinic for the residents of Branchville. Information regarding the scheduled date will be put on the sign at the corner of Broad Street and Railroad Avenue **OR** you can call Catherine Whitehead at **(973) 862-0729**.



Talk Around the Town

Welcome New Businesses

Branchville Borough welcomes the new businesses that have come to our town. We are happy to have you and wish you many years of success.

The Volunteer Corner

The Branchville Council would like to extend their appreciation to all of the volunteers in Branchville Borough. Volunteers like you are what keep Branchville's heart strong.

Welcome Aboard

The Branchville Borough Council welcomes:

- Brian Peck, new member/Certified Public Works Manager of the Department of Public Works

We are happy to have you join the others.

Special Thanks

The Borough Council would like to thank Keith Whitehead for helping the Road Department when they were shorthanded.

The Editors of "The Gazebo" would like to thank Lorie Laux for all the work she does in designing, preparing and mailing of the annual newsletter for us.





Talk Around the Town

New to the Borough

New Street Lights and Veteran Banners

With the installation of our new lights in town, the Borough of Branchville is looking to honor our Veterans with individual banners hung from the light poles and utility poles (as necessary). The cost to do so will be between \$135 and \$150 each and are two-sided and have a lifespan of about 8 years. We know not everyone can afford this cost so we will be looking for contributions/donations.

The program will be open to Branchville residents and former residents. If you are interested, please email Mike Clune at: michael.f.clune.llc@gmail.com **OR** text Mike at **(973) 271-9867**. We are looking at displaying the banners from Memorial Day thru Veterans Day. We will need the following information when we execute the program but NOT at this current time. We will let you know but you can gather the information now. The banner size will be 18" x 36" and have the following information on them:

Picture (in uniform if you have it)

Branch of Service

Rank (if known)

Dates of Service (example: 1968 – 1971)

Talk Around the Town

Trash and Litter Law

Please do not transport trash or litter from outside our community, into the Borough of Branchville. Branchville Borough Code 81-8 states: “No person shall bring any trash or litter from outside the borough limits, into the borough for the purpose of disposing thereof without the express consent of the Borough Council. All trash collected in Branchville must be created in Branchville”. We do our best to control garbage amounts because it affects future contract prices. A fine of **\$500** or a jail term of up to **90 days**, or both could be imposed for violation of this provision.

If you witness someone bringing their trash into the Borough, please contact Mayor Frato or any member of the Town Council.

Branchville Tennis Courts

Recently, there has been a heavy demand for the use of the Branchville Tennis Courts. To be fair to everyone, the Borough Council has voted to allow one court for tennis only and one court for pickle ball only, with Branchville residents taking preference. **IF THERE IS NO ONE PLAYING EITHER SPORT ON THEIR SPECIFIC COURT, THE COURT WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR PLAYERS OF THAT SPORT ONLY.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

No Parking on Streets During Snow Season

Whenever snow has fallen and the accumulation covers the streets, **NO** vehicle shall be parked on the public streets in the Borough of Branchville from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. This parking prohibition shall remain in effect after snow has ceased falling, until the streets have been sufficiently plowed, and parking will not interfere with the normal flow of traffic.

If you are a property owner who has tenants, please make sure they are aware of this.

Dog Bites

Please remember to report all dog bites to the Sussex County Board of Health. They can be reached at **(973) 579-0370**.





Preparing for an Emergency

Do You Have Special Requirements?

The Branchville Office of Emergency Management continues to compile a list of residents who have special needs such as oxygen/respiratory equipment or other vital types of health support systems. The list will enable the department to work with the Blue Ridge Rescue Squad, Branchville Fire Department and any other necessary agencies in the times of power outages or other emergencies. To be placed on the list, please contact Jeff Lewis (Coordinator of the Branchville Office of Emergency Management) at **(973) 479-7203**.

Emergency Planning

Emergencies can happen at any time of the year. To help you be more prepared for the next emergency, please go to **www.state.nj.us/njoem**

House Numbers Must Be Displayed and Visible

There have been instances when emergency vehicles could not find someone's home because there was no house number displayed. **PLEASE** have your house number displayed on your house or in your yard. Reflective numbers with adhesive backing can be purchased at local stores. Whether you own or rent the house, please have your house number visible.



Preparing for an Emergency

Sussex County's Emergency Notification System

Sussex County's Division of Emergency Management has the ability to notify all Sussex County residents in the event of an emergency through its "Outbound / Reverse 9-1-1" system. When activated by officials, this automated system calls homes and businesses in the affected area and delivers a recorded message to notify the public about an emergency and what actions they may need to take. The system will be used for the following types of events:

- missing person alerts
- emergency evacuations
- local security and crime alerts
- weather emergencies
- hazardous material events

All landline telephones services by Verizon, Embarq and Warwick Valley Telephone (WVT) are already in the system, however, cell phones and some VOIP (voice over internet protocol) phone numbers are not. We offer a registration process that allows you to quickly add your cellular and/or VOIP numbers to the system which therefore ensures that you receive these notifications.

HOW TO REGISTER:

Register instantly by computer by going to: **www.sussexcountysheriff.com**

In the brown bar at the top of the page, click on "Community", choose "Community Alerts", then choose the link "Visit the secure enrollment page to register or update your information" to enroll your home phone number. You can register your cell phone to receive alerts.

From this website, you can complete and submit the form.

If you would prefer to fill out and mail the form, please contact Jeff Lewis (Coordinator of the Branchville Office of Emergency Management) at **(973) 479-7203**.

Branchville Borough **Trash and Recycling Information**

Recyclables will be picked up, curbside **TWICE** each month by Blue Diamond. Collection of recyclables will be made on the **SECOND** and **FOURTH** Fridays of each month. Please note that cardboard (boxes, etc.) and newspapers are to be put curbside with **RECYCLABLES**, **NOT WITH YOUR GARBAGE**. Please have your trash and recycling out by **6:30am** on the day of pick-up.

EVERY THURSDAY:

- Regular curbside garbage pick-up
- DO NOT** put newspapers and cardboard out with your trash. These are for recycling only.

2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH:

Single stream Recycling (glass, plastic and metal containers, cartons, cardboard, newspaper and paper items (styrofoam) can be mixed together – (all in the same container).

- No liquids
- No bundles
- No plastic bags
- Empty containers
- Mixed recyclables

DO NOT put your recycling in plastic garbage bags! Place the recycling directly into your cans.

LEAVES:

- In brown paper recycling leaf bags only
- Will be picked up the 2nd and 4th Saturdays in **April / May** and in **October / November**.

SUSSEX COUNTY RECYCLING in Lafayette allows the following items to be dropped off at their facility at any time, Monday thru Saturday, 7am – 2pm:

- Old clothing
- Dry cell batteries
- Used motor oil, etc.
- Tires – (fee will be charged)
- Cooking oil – (no fee)

After the oil has cooled, carefully pour the oil into a sturdy plastic or wax-coated, leak proof container or in its original container (no larger than 5 gallons in size). Do not mix the used cooking oil with other liquids. Bring the full containers to the Sussex County Recycling Center during normal business hours.

Hazardous Household Waste

Hazardous household waste is not to be put out with your trash. There are specific dates when hazardous household waste can be taken to Sussex County Municipal Utilities Authority (SCMUA). Please check their website, **www.scmua.org** for more information on their special disposal and recycling events.





Branchville Borough **Trash and Recycling Information**

Free Clothing and Linen Pickup

Do you have shoes, clothing, stuffed animals, linens, hats, etc., that you no longer need or want? There is a new program available where these items can be picked up from your home, at your convenience, free of charge (no matter the condition of the items). For more information, go to www.helpsy.com.

Inclement Weather Schedule

If there is inclement weather or a holiday and trash or recycling doesn't get picked up, it will be picked up on the following day. Please visit our website, www.branchvilleborough.org for more information.

Major holidays include:

- New Year's Day
- Memorial Day
- July 4th
- Labor Day
- Thanksgiving Day
- Christmas Day

Non-Allowed Trash

Please note that construction material (wood) and tires will **not** be picked up by Blue Diamond. Please do not put these items out with your normal trash.

Old televisions will not be picked up by Blue Diamond. It is your responsibility to take these to SCMUA on one of their Electronics Recycling Day, which is currently scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2026 and October 3, 2026 (9am to 2pm). Please check their website, www.scmua.org for more information.

Air conditioners, refrigerators, water coolers or electronics will **not** be picked up by Blue Diamond. Please take these items to SCMUA. There is a \$10 surcharge for freon removal.

Newspaper and cardboard are to be put out with your recycling.



Sponsor Organizations

The Mayor and Borough Council would like to thank the following for sponsoring events in Branchville:

The Branchville Hose Company held their Annual Tricky Tray on Friday, March 20, 2026.

The Branchville Hose Company Auxiliary hosted a Breakfast With the Easter Bunny at the Branchville Fire House on Sunday, March 22, 2026.

The Branchville Hose Company held their Venison Dinner on Saturday, March 28, 2026.

The Branchville Hose Company sponsored the Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Rubber Duck Race, on Friday, April 3, 2026.

The Branchville American Legion Post #157 sponsors the annual Memorial Day Parade, scheduled for Monday, May 25, 2026.

The Branchville Hose Company supports the annual Scarecrow Contest to be held in October 2026.

The United Methodist Church sponsors the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, followed by cookies at the church, scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2026.

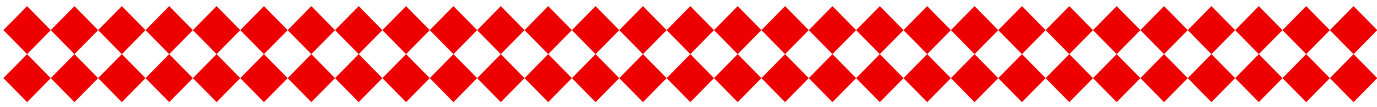
The Branchville Hose Company No. 1 sponsors Santa and Mrs. Claus ride around town, held in December 2026.

Other events are tentative, such as:

The Branchville Hose Company No. 1 sponsors Breakfast with Santa in December.

Please contact any Branchville Fireman if you have a question about a Branchville Hose Company sponsored event **OR** watch the sign at the corner of Broad Street and Railroad Avenue for additional information or call the sponsoring organization.

The Branchville Borough Historical Society has sponsored the Easter Egg Hunt and Duck Race for 15 years. Angel Bellis has organized and led both events for the past 6 years. Beginning this year, the Ladies Auxiliary and the Branchville Hose Company will sponsor these events. The Mayor and Borough Council Members would like to thank the Branchville Borough Historical Society, Angel Bellis and the Branchville Hose Company Ladies Auxiliary for their dedication to this event.



Fire Department News

News from Branchville Hose Company No. 1

The following events are sponsored by the Branchville Hose Company No. 1:

Saturday, June 6	Backyard BBQ Bash at the firehouse
Friday, July 17	Golf Outing at High Point Country Club in Montague, NJ (tee time is 8:00am)
Saturday, October 3	Sussex County Fireman's Parade in Sussex, NJ (1:00 pm)
Saturday, November 28	Annual Christmas Parade
Other planned events are:	Chicken BBQ (date to be determined) Beefsteak Dinner (date to be determined)

Please contact any Branchville Fireman if you have a question about any of these events **OR** watch the sign at the corner of Broad Street and Railroad Avenue for additional information. If you want to purchase ticket(s) for any of these events, please contact any Branchville Fireman. Other events may be scheduled throughout the year.

Kyle Whitehead, Chief	(973) 756-7838	kylejw651@gmail.com
Ryan Hanshaw, Deputy Chief	(845) 545-6020	sfdryan13@gmail.com
Nick Osterhoudt, Captain	(862) 266-8397	nosterhoudt46@gmail.com
Kyle Conklin, Lieutenant	(862) 354-3336	khyle.conklin2@gmail.com
Keith Whitehead (firehouse hall rental)	(973) 600-3808	bhcv10@yahoo.com

If you would like to join the fire department or ladies auxiliary, please contact any Fireman for information.

The Branchville Hose Company No. 1 is located at 1 Railroad Avenue in the Borough of Branchville. They were established in 1910. They enjoy having children stop by to see the firehouse and trucks and they thank the residents and businesses for their support throughout the year. Even though they receive financial assistance from the Borough, they would not be able to operate without the residents of the community. Please try to support them by attending any of the events listed above. At any time that you want to make a donation, please mail it to:

Branchville Hose Company No. 1
P.O. Box 2425
Branchville, NJ 07826



Branchville Borough Historical Society

The Museum for the Branchville Borough Historical Society is located at the Branchville Municipal Building at 34 Wantage Avenue in Branchville. The Historical Society is very proud of what they have accomplished over the past 28 years.

The Museum is open on the third Sunday of each month, 1:00-3:00PM, for anyone who would like to visit and browse our local historical memorabilia.

Membership Fees: Single \$15 / Family \$35 (Annually)
Life Time Member \$150

The meetings for the Branchville Borough Historical Society are held at the municipal building. The meetings start at 2:00 PM (tentatively scheduled on the third Sunday) in March, June, September and November.

The meetings are followed by a program on local history and refreshments are served. Everyone is welcome to attend. Meetings are announced on the Branchville Borough Historical Society's Facebook page. A postcard announcing the meeting is mailed to all members and will also be posted on the bulletin board at the Branchville Post Office.

Follow the Branchville Borough Historical Society on Facebook:

Branchvilleboroughnj Historicalsocietyinc

If you wish to donate or loan any items to the museum, please contact Bill Bathgate, Historian for the Branchville Borough Historical Society, at **(973) 948-3721** to arrange for drop off with him (items are not to be left with any employees at Borough Hall and **must** be related to Branchville).

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

The Borough of Branchville, Department of Public Works

For the Year 2026, Results from the Year 2025

We are pleased to present to you this year's Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water.

If you are a landlord, you must distribute this Drinking Water Quality Report to every tenant as soon as practicable, but no later than three business days after receipt. Delivery must be done by hand, mail, or email, and by posting the information in a prominent location at the entrance of each rental premises, pursuant to section #3 of NJ P.L. 2021, c.82 (C.58:12A-12.4 et seq.).

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised people such as people with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, people who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by *Cryptosporidium* and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The Branchville DPW routinely monitors for over 80 contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table lists only detected contaminants and shows the results of our monitoring from January 1st to December 31st, 2025. The state allows us to monitor for some contaminants less than once per year because the concentrations of these contaminants do not change frequently. Some of our data though representative is more than one year old.

TEST RESULTS						
Contaminant:	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants:						
*Arsenic Test results Yr. 2025	Y	Range = ND – 5.16 Highest detect = 5.16	ppb	N/A	5	Erosion of natural deposits; runoff from orchards; runoff from glass and electronics production wastes
Barium Test results Yr. 2024	N	0.22	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits
Copper Test results Yr. 2025 Result at 90th Percentile	N	0.288 No samples exceeded the action level. 20 samples taken. Range of detections: (ND - 0.376)	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride Test results Yr. 2024	N	0.107	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead Test results Yr. 2025 Result at 90 th Percentile	N	1.16 No samples exceeded the action level. 20 samples taken. Range of detections: (ND-2.47)	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nickel Test results Yr. 2024	N	7.52	ppb	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection Byproducts:						
TTHM Total Trihalomethanes Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 6 - 18 Highest detect = 18	ppb	N/A	80	By-product of drinking water disinfection
HAA5 Haloacetic Acids Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 3 - 5 Highest detect = 5	ppb	N/A	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Radioactive Contaminants:						
Gross Alpha Test results Yr. 2021	N	4.6	pCi/l	0	15	Erosion of natural deposits
PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:						
PFOS Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 8.7 – 10.9 Highest detect = 10.9 Average = 9.9	ppt	N/A	13	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
PFOA Perfluorooctane Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 3.5 – 4.1 Highest detect = 4.1 Average = 3.7	ppt	N/A	14	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.

Regulated Disinfectants	Level Detected	MRDL	MRDLG
Chlorine Test results Yr. 2025	Range = 0.7 – 1.1 ppm Average = 0.9 ppm	4.0 ppm	4.0 ppm

Chlorine: Water additive used to control microbes.

Secondary Contaminant	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	RUL
Sodium Test results Yr. 2025	Range = 70 - 78	ppm	50

We exceeded the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) for Sodium, which is a Secondary Contaminant. Secondary contaminants are substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates. For healthy individuals, the sodium intake from water is not important, because a much greater intake of sodium takes place from salt in the diet. However, sodium levels above the Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) may be of concern to individuals on a sodium restricted diet.

Recommended Upper Limit (RUL) – Recommended maximum concentration of secondary contaminants. These reflect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. RULs are recommendations, not mandates.

Secondary Contaminant- Substances that do not have an impact on health. Secondary Contaminants affect aesthetic qualities such as odor, taste or appearance. Secondary standards are recommendations, not mandates.

*** Special Notice:**

We are required to sample and test for Arsenic every quarter. During the testing of the 3rd Quarter on 7/14/2025 we detected a level of 5.16 ppb which slightly exceeded the State MCL of 5 ppb. All subsequent samples were well below the MCL.

Arsenic – While your drinking water meets EPA’s standard for arsenic, it does contain low levels of arsenic. EPA’s standard balances the current understanding of arsenic’s possible health effects against the cost of removing arsenic from drinking water. EPA continues to research the health effects of low levels of arsenic, which is a mineral known to cause cancer in humans at high concentrations and is linked to other health effects such as skin damage and circulatory problems (40 CFR 141.154(b)(1)).

Unregulated PFAS Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances:

Contaminant:	Violation Y/N	Level Detected	Units of Measurement	MC LG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
PFBS Perfluorooctane Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 1.8 – 2.4 Highest detect = 2.4 Highest Annual Average = 2.1	ppt	N/A	N/A	Discharge from industrial, chemical, and manufacturing factories, release of aqueous film forming foam.
PFHPA Perfluoroheptanoic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 1.2 – 1.7 Highest detect = 1.7 Highest Annual Average = 1.4	ppt	N/A	N/A	
PFHxS Perfluorohexane Sulfonic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 7.0 – 7.6 Highest detect = 7.6 Highest Annual Average = 7.3	ppt	N/A	N/A	
PFHXA Perfluorohexanoic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 2.5 – 3.0 Highest detect = 3.0 Highest Annual Average = 2.7	ppt	N/A	N/A	
PFBA Perfluorobutanoic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 2.1 – 2.8 Highest detect = 2.8 Highest Annual Average = 2.5	ppt	N/A	N/A	
PFPEA Perfluoropentanoic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = 2.5 – 3.4 Highest detect = 3.4 Highest Annual Average = 2.8	ppt	N/A	N/A	
PFPES Perfluoropentanesulfonic Acid Test results Yr. 2025	N	Range = ND – 1.3 Highest detect = 1.3 Highest Annual Average = 0.3	ppt	N/A	N/A	

Unregulated contaminants are those for which the EPA has not established drinking water standards. The purpose of unregulated contaminant monitoring is to assist the EPA in determining the occurrence of unregulated contaminants in drinking water and whether future regulation is warranted.

For additional information: If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact our Water Department at (973) 948-5515. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Borough Council meetings at the Branchville Municipal Building, 34 Wantage Avenue, on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

Our water source: We have two wells. Our wells draw groundwater from the Kittatinny Aquifer. The Mattison Reservoir is no longer in use. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) has completed and issued the Source Water Assessment Report and Summary for this public water system, which is available at <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/swap/index.html> or by contacting NJDEP’s Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at (609) 292-5550. You may also contact your public water system to obtain information regarding your water system’s Source Water Assessment. This water system’s source water susceptibility ratings, and a list of potential contaminant sources is included. We have a source water protection plan available from our office that provides more information such as potential sources of contamination.

Potential sources of contamination: The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are byproducts of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can, also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.
- Radioactive Contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Waivers: The Safe Drinking Water Act regulations allow monitoring waivers to reduce or eliminate the monitoring requirements for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals. Our system received monitoring waivers for asbestos and synthetic organic chemicals.

Definitions:

In the "Test Results" table you may find some terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Non-Detects (ND) – laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Parts per trillion (ppt) or nanogram per liter – one part per trillion corresponds to one minute in 20,000 years, or a single penny in \$100,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Action Level – the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level – The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal – The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant, below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

What are PFOA and PFOS?

Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), previously referred to as perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs, that are man-made and used in industrial and commercial applications. PFOA was used as a processing aid in the manufacture of fluoropolymers used in non-stick cookware and other products, as well as other commercial and industrial uses based on its resistance to harsh chemicals and high temperatures. PFOS is used in metal plating and finishing as well as in various commercial products. PFOS was previously used as a major ingredient in aqueous film forming foams for firefighting and training, and PFOA and PFOS are found in consumer products such as stain resistant coatings for upholstery and carpets, water resistant outdoor clothing, and grease proof food packaging. Although the use of PFOA and PFOS has decreased substantially, contamination is expected to continue indefinitely because these substances are extremely persistent in the environment and are soluble and mobile in water. More information can be found at:

[https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-\(003\).pdf](https://www.state.nj.us/dep/wms/bears/docs/2019-4-15-FAQs_PFOA-websites-OLA%204-24-19SDM-(003).pdf)

Sources of Lead in Drinking Water

The Borough of Branchville, Department of Public Works is responsible for providing high quality drinking water but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. Although most lead exposure occurs from inhaling dust or from contaminated soil, or when children eat paint chips, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) estimates that 10 to 20 percent of human exposure to lead may come from lead in drinking water. Infants who consume mostly mixed formula can receive 40 percent to 60 percent of their exposure to lead from drinking water. Lead is rarely found in the source of your drinking water but enters tap water through corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and household plumbing materials. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipes, brass, and chrome-brass faucets, and in some cases, service lines made of or lined with lead. New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as "lead-free", may still contain a small percentage of lead, and contribute lead to drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25 percent lead to be labeled as "lead free". However, prior to January 4, 2014, "lead free" allowed up to 8 percent lead content of the wetted surfaces of plumbing products including those labeled National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) certified. Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures. Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions. When water stands in lead service lines, lead pipes, or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into your drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning, or later in the afternoon if the water has not been used all day, can contain fairly high levels of lead.

Steps You Can Take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

For a full list of steps visit: <https://www.state.nj.us/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead-consumer.html>

Run the cold water to flush out lead. Let the water run from the tap before using it for drinking or cooking any time the water in the faucet has gone unused for more than six hours. The longer the water resides in plumbing the more lead it may contain. Flushing the tap means running the cold-water faucet. Let the water run from the cold-water tap based on the length of the lead service line and the plumbing configuration in your home. In other words, the larger the home or building and the greater the distance to the water main (in the street), the more water it will take to flush properly. Although toilet flushing or showering flushes water through a portion of the plumbing system, you still need to flush the water in each faucet before using it for drinking or cooking. Flushing tap water is a simple and inexpensive measure you can take to protect your health. It usually uses less than one gallon of water.

Use cold, flushed water for cooking and preparing baby formula. Because lead from lead-containing plumbing materials and pipes can dissolve into hot water more easily than cold water, never drink, cook, or prepare beverages including baby formula using hot water from the tap. If you have not had your water sampled or if you know, it is recommended that bottled or filtered water be used for drinking and preparing baby formula. If you need hot water, draw water from the cold tap and then heat it.

Do not boil water to remove lead. Boiling water will not reduce lead; however, it is still safe to wash dishes and do laundry. Lead will not soak into dishware or most clothes.

Use alternative sources or treatment of water. You may want to consider purchasing bottled water or a water filter. Read the package to be sure the filter is approved to reduce lead or contact NSF International at 800-NSF-8010 or www.nsf.org for information on performance standards for water filters.

Determine if you have interior lead plumbing or solder. If your home/building was constructed prior to 1987, it is important to determine if interior lead solder or lead pipes are present. You can check yourself, hire a licensed plumber, or check with your landlord.

Replace plumbing fixtures and service lines containing lead. Replace brass faucets, fittings, and valves that do not meet the current definition of "lead free" from 2014 (as explained above). Visit the NSF website at www.nsf.org to learn more about lead-containing plumbing fixtures.

Remove and clean aerators/screens on plumbing fixtures. Over time, particles and sediment can collect in the aerator screen. Regularly remove and clean aerators screens located at the tip of faucets and remove any particles.

Test your water for lead. Please call our Water Department at (973) 948-5515 to find out how to get your water tested for lead. Testing is essential because you cannot see, taste, or smell lead in drinking water.

Get your child tested. Contact your local health department or healthcare provider to find out how you can get your child tested for lead if you are concerned about lead exposure. New Jersey law requires that children be tested for lead in their blood at both 1 and 2 years of age and before they are 6 years old if they have never been tested before or if they have been exposed to a known source of lead.

Have an electrician check your wiring. If grounding wires from the electrical system are attached to your pipes, corrosion may be greater. Check with a licensed electrician or your local electrical code to determine if your wiring can be grounded elsewhere. **DO NOT** attempt to change the wiring yourself because improper grounding can cause electrical shock and fire hazards.

Water softeners and reverse osmosis units will remove lead from water but can also make the water more corrosive to lead solder and plumbing by removing certain minerals; therefore, the installation of these treatment units at the point of entry into homes with lead plumbing should only be done under supervision of a qualified water treatment professional.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact our Water Department at (973) 948-5515. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups. Infants and children can have decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can lead to new learning and behavior problems or exacerbate existing learning and behavior problems. The children of women who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy can have increased risk of these adverse health effects. Adults can have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems.

The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works; PWSID # 1903001

Branchville Water Department is a public community water system consisting of 2 wells.

This system's source water comes from the following aquifers: Jacksonburg Limestone, Kittatinny Supergroup and H

Susceptibility Ratings for The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works Sources

The table below illustrates the susceptibility ratings for the seven contaminant categories (and radon) for each source in the system. The table provides the number of wells and intakes that rated high (H), medium (M), or low (L) for each contaminant category. For susceptibility ratings of purchased water, refer to the specific water system's source water assessment report.

The seven contaminant categories are defined at the bottom of this page. DEP considered all surface water highly susceptible to pathogens, therefore all intakes received a high rating for the pathogen category. For the purpose of Source Water Assessment Program, radionuclides are more of a concern for ground water than surface water. As a result, surface water intakes' susceptibility to radionuclides was not determined and they all received a low rating.

If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is or will be consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. Public water systems are required to monitor for regulated contaminants and to install treatment if any contaminants are detected at frequencies and concentrations above allowable levels. As a result of the assessments, DEP may customize (change existing) monitoring schedules based on the susceptibility ratings.



	Pathogens			Nutrients			Pesticides			Volatile Organic Compounds			Inorganics			Radionuclides			Radon			Disinfection Byproduct Precursors		
Sources	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L	H	M	L
Wells - 2		2		2				2		2					2	2			2			2		

Pathogens: Disease-causing organisms such as bacteria and viruses. Common sources are animal and human fecal wastes.

Nutrients: Compounds, minerals and elements that aid growth, that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include nitrogen and phosphorus.

Volatile Organic Compounds: Man-made chemicals used as solvents, degreasers, and gasoline components. Examples include benzene, methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and vinyl chloride.

Pesticides: Man-made chemicals used to control pests, weeds and fungus. Common sources include land application and manufacturing centers of pesticides. Examples include herbicides such as atrazine, and insecticides such as chlordane.

Inorganics: Mineral-based compounds that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include arsenic, asbestos, copper, lead, and nitrate.

Radionuclides: Radioactive substances that are both naturally occurring and man-made. Examples include radium and uranium.

Radon: Colorless, odorless, cancer-causing gas that occurs naturally in the environment. For more information go to

<http://www.nj.gov/dep/rpp/radon/index.htm> or call (800) 648-0394.

Disinfection Byproduct Precursors: A common source is naturally occurring organic matter in surface water. Disinfection byproducts are formed when the disinfectants (usually chlorine) used to kill pathogens react with dissolved organic material (for example leaves) present in surface water.

In July 2021, P.L.2021, Ch.183 (Law) was enacted, requiring all community water systems to replace lead service lines in their service area within 10 years. Under the law, The Borough of Branchville Department of Public Works is required to notify customers, non-paying consumers, and any off-site owner of a property (e.g., landlord) when it is known they are served by a lead service line*. Our service line inventory is available upon request.

We at the Branchville DPW work hard to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future. Please call our office if you have questions.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Monitoring Requirements Not Met for The Borough of Branchville

We treat your water for corrosion control by adding zinc orthophosphate, which creates a protective coating inside your plumbing to prevent lead and copper from leaching into the water. However, during the 2024 and 2025 monitoring periods, our system experienced excursions where the orthophosphate levels fell below the minimum concentration required by the NJDEP. These were not emergency situations, but because the levels were outside the optimal range for more than nine days in each period, they were classified as Treatment Technique violations.

NOV#6968

What happened? During the monitoring period July 1 to December 31, 2024, our system had 86 days of excursions.

What Should I do? You do not need to use an alternate water supply, such as bottled water. If you have specific health concerns, you should consult your doctor.

What is being done? The department increased the dosage of zinc orthophosphate and purchased a HACH Orthophosphate test kit for improved monitoring. These actions were completed by May 1, 2025.

NOV#6969, #6970, #6971

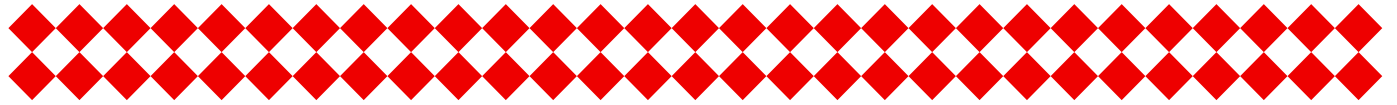
What happened? During the monitoring period January 1 to June 30, 2025, our system had 27 days of excursions (NOV#6969, #6970)
During the monitoring period July 1 to December 31, 2025, our system had 27 days of excursions (NOV#6971)

What Should I do? You do not need to use an alternate water supply, such as bottled water. If you have specific health concerns, you should consult your doctor.

What is being done? In addition to maintaining the increased dosage of zinc orthophosphate and additional monitoring, the department installed a new scale to precisely measure the dosage. These actions were completed by December 2, 2025.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

For more information, please contact our Water Department at (973) 948-5515.



Branchville Borough
34 Wantage Avenue
Branchville, NJ 07826



NOTICE: The code of the Borough of Branchville is available on the internet.

At any time, you can view the E-Code by visiting www.generalcode.com

- Click on “Code Library” at the top of the screen**
- Click on “New Jersey”**
- Click on “Borough of Branchville”**