Farmingville, NY - Councilwoman Connie Kepert invites all Brookhaven residents to join her and the WaterSense partners to celebrate Fix a Leak Week which is celebrated annually from March 16-22 and is dedicated to reducing the waste of water.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, more than one trillion gallons of water go down the drain every year because of household leaks. Leaks may increase a water bill by as much as 10 percent. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s WaterSense program encourages consumers to find and fix water leaks in their homes. The average American family could be wasting more than 10,000 gallons of water annually - enough for 270 loads of laundry - due to easy-to-fix leaks. Since 2006 WaterSense has helped consumers save a cumulative 757 billion gallons of water and over $14.2 billion in water and energy bills.

Here's how to reduce water waste:

**Check:** Look at your water meter, usually located outside your house, before and after a two-hour period of no water use. If the number changed, there is likely a leak, which could be as simple to fix as replacing a worn rubber flapper in the toilet tank.

**Twist:** Fix dripping pipes, fixtures or hoses by using a wrench to twist and tighten the connections. If needed, pipe tape can help seal shower fixtures or hose connections. Check washers and valves for persistent drips and repair or
replace, if necessary. Remind everyone to turn faucets and showers off tightly.

Replace: For old or inefficient fixtures not easily repaired, look for WaterSense labeled models to replace them. WaterSense products are available in a variety of styles and price points at home improvement stores. These money-saving products are high performing and independently certified to use at least 20 percent less water. Look for the WaterSense label on product packaging or the website of your favorite plumbing brand. Many WaterSense partners also offer rebates for WaterSense labeled products. For more information check the EPA site: usaepa@service.govdelivery.com

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