

## Demolition Permits for Residential and Commercial Renovations

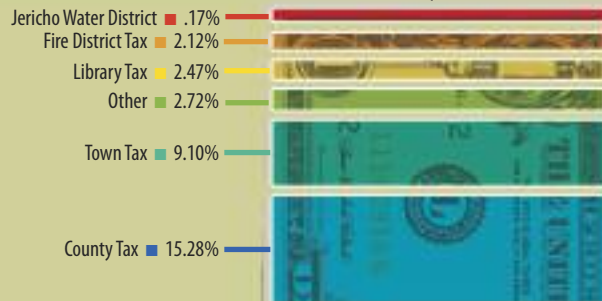
Recently, the renovation of older homes has increased dramatically throughout the District. When a building is to be demolished, the water service must be discontinued at the water main in the road, with all associated costs incurred by the owner/builder. This can be accomplished by first having your plumbing contractor call for a mark out of the utilities in the area. The contractor must also apply for a Town or Village permit to open the road. Once the permit has been issued, the plumber should call Jericho's service department at least 24 hours in advance to arrange for a representative from the District to verify that the work has met our requirements.

For commercial properties, the same holds true. Buildings that are to be taken down must also have the water services discontinued at the water main. For those that are to undergo substantial renovations, their water service(s) must be upgraded to meet current regulations regarding backflow prevention devices. Because of the complex nature of this work, it is best to contact the District Superintendent for additional information before proceeding.

## 2014 Budget: Holding the Line 7 Years Running!!!

### No Tax Levy or Water Rate Increases in 2014.

The JWD Board of Commissioners is proud to report that there will be no increase to the tax levy or water rates in 2014. This is the 7th consecutive year that the water rate for the first 30,000 gallons of water usage per quarter has remained unchanged. It is also the 3rd consecutive year that the District has not increased the tax levy. In fact, the average household (with an assessed value of \$500,000) pays less than \$27.00 a year in JWD taxes and only \$9.00 for the first 10,000 gallons of water consumed each quarter.



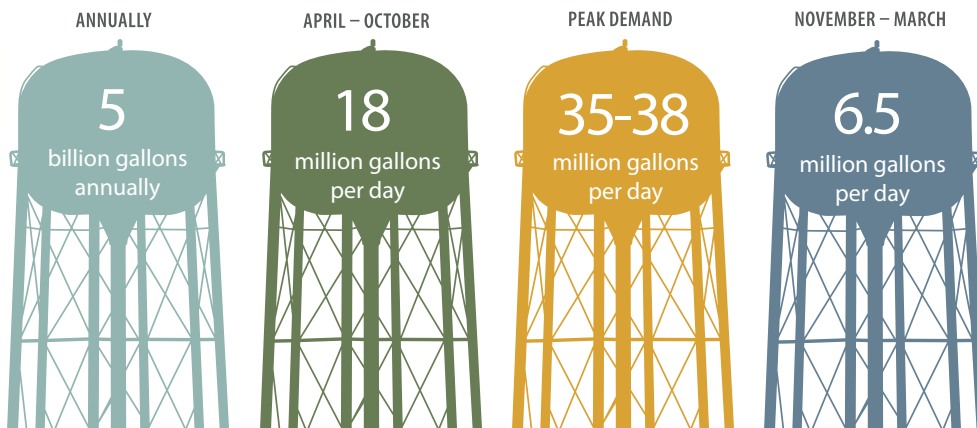
### 2013 Tax Breakout for Average Home Market Value \$500,000

School Tax 68.14%

## We Deliver!

The Jericho Water District has 25 wells on 15 different well sites throughout our 37 square miles. Annually, we pump approximately 5 billion gallons of water. During the irrigation months of April through October, all 25 wells are in operation, and we deliver an average of 18 million gallons of water per day. Peak demand pumpage can rise to 35–38 million gallons per day. When irrigation is no longer a factor, pumpage drops to an average of 6.5 million gallons per day, which requires only 4 to 5 of our wells. What a difference a season change makes!

### WATER USAGE



# F Y I: WATER FACTS & HELPFUL HINTS



## ■ Moving? Renting? You should know...

...that unlike other utilities, the water account number remains assigned to the property. When selling your home or renting it to a new tenant, a final water reading is required. Please give us notice a day or two prior to the closing to set it up. We will need to have a form filled out by the current owner or the attorney for that person.

Information needed:

- Date of closing
- Seller's attorney's name, fax, phone number
- New owner's name, phone number
- Forwarding address for seller.

Normally, the final reading is done the day before the property is sold and faxed to the closing so the bill can be paid at that time. Unpaid final bills become the responsibility of the new owner.

## ■ Attention Snowbirds

For those who winter elsewhere, please give us your forwarding address. Upon your return, please remember to call us to switch the address back to your local service address. As always, it is wise to contact a plumber to have your home winterized in your absence. This will prevent your interior pipes from freezing and bursting over the long winter ahead.



## ■ Meters Read Quarterly

- All water meters are read quarterly
- Account numbers starting with 2 or 3 read in February, May, August, November
- Account numbers starting with 4 or 5 read in March, June, September, December
- Account numbers starting with 6 or 7 read in January, April, July, October

If you don't receive your water bill by the end of each of your billing cycle months, please call the District.



## ■ Love Your Local Hydrant!

Fire hydrants are essential lifesaving tools, especially for firefighters, but only if they can be located quickly when needed. Keep hydrants in your area clear of debris, shrubbery, landscaping, snow and any other obstacles that may obscure their visibility. In addition, if you see a hydrant leaking, please contact the District immediately at (516) 921-8280.



## Whose Leak Is It Anyway?

**M**any customers throughout the District have posed this question to the District's trained service personnel. The answer is that the location of the leak determines who is responsible for the repair.

To start, the customer or the owner of the property to whom the water service is connected owns the entire water pipe from the main in the road to inside the building. As a matter of policy, the District will repair any leak on a water service that occurs between the water main and the intermediate valve, known as the curb stop, which is usually located near the street property line.

If a leak develops on the water service after the curb stop, it is the property owner's responsibility to have

it repaired. All leaks should be repaired as quickly as possible to minimize the amount of water wasted. Additionally, if the leak is after the meter, it behooves the owner to expedite repairs to reduce the amount of water lost, which could result in a larger than normal water bill. The District will, at no charge, replace any water meter which leaks due to a manufacturing defect. However, if a meter is damaged due to abuse, a new meter will not be installed until it is paid for by the property owner. As for leaking or broken water mains and fire hydrants, these are repaired by trained District employees.

The long and the short of it is, if you see something that appears to be a leak, do not hesitate to call the District at (516) 921-8280, day or night. A District serviceman will be dispatched to assess the situation and determine "WHOSE LEAK IT IS".



# IRRIGATION SYSTEMS: PLANNING AHEAD FOR SPRING

**F**or those contemplating the installation of an underground sprinkler system in the spring, here are some things to keep in mind:

Typically, water use increases 300%–400% when an automatic underground system replaces one that was manually operated.

## **Don't Forget Your Permit:**

The installation or modification of an underground sprinkler system requires filing an application for a permit with the Jericho Water District. An inspection of the completed, installed irrigation system must be made by District personnel prior to the issuance of a permit. The permit fee is \$150.00.

Regulations stipulate that all modified or new installations must be properly equipped with:

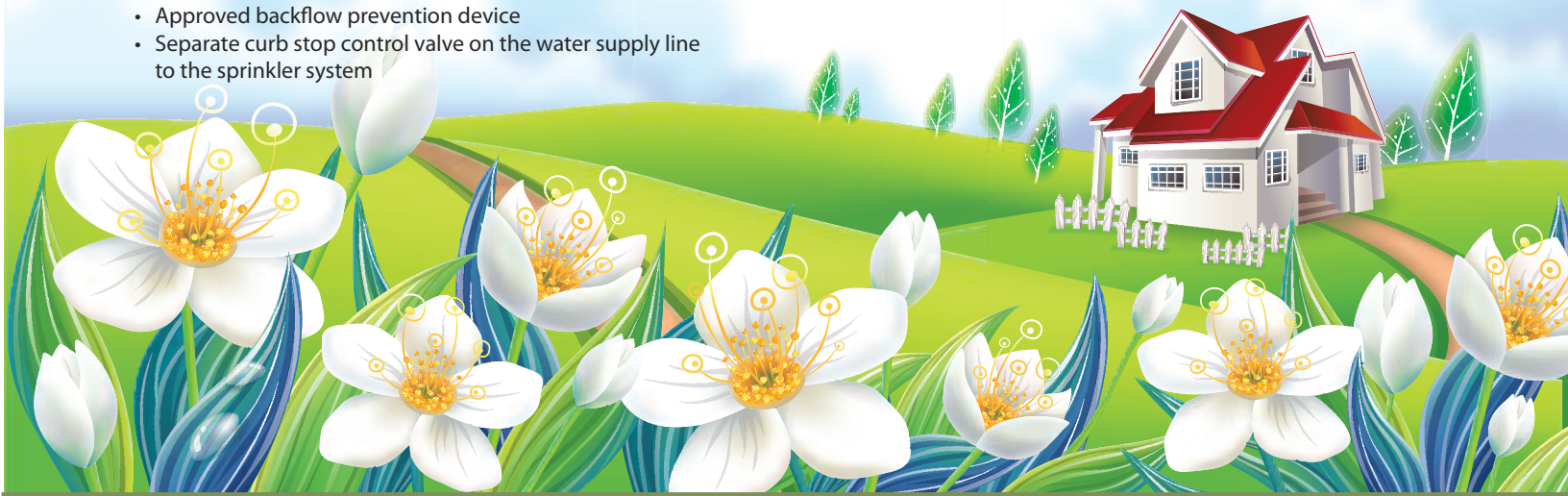
- A programmable time clock
- A moisture sensor
- Approved backflow prevention device
- Separate curb stop control valve on the water supply line to the sprinkler system

## **Preventing Contamination:**

Double-check valve assemblies, also known as backflow prevention devices, are an important and essential component of every automatic lawn sprinkler system. These devices prevent the possible contamination of the public water supply through your lawn sprinkler system should a back siphonage or a backflow occur.

As per the Nassau County Department of Health, the backflow prevention device must be tested annually by a certified backflow tester. The sprinkler system does not have to be operational for the backflow prevention device test to be performed. Homeowners must contract with the backflow tester.

The Jericho Water District requests that the annual test be done in the spring upon the opening of the sprinkler system. Test results should be sent to the Jericho Water District via one of the following methods: email – [jbarbato@jerichowater.org](mailto:jbarbato@jerichowater.org), fax (516) 921-7554 or standard mail. Please do not send multiple copies.



## MY WATER METER IS WHERE???

**M**ost water meters are located outside between the house and the street, usually on the front lawn in a pit under a round metal cover.

The District has directions which guide meter readers and service personnel to each pit location. Once there, they may have to open the pit cover to get a reading or to investigate a service call. At times they are unable to perform these services because the meter pit is covered. Frequently encountered obstacles that cover pits run the gamut...mounds of dirt, piles of leaves, stacks of wood, piles of lawn clippings, new lawns, bushes, large ornamental flowerpots, new driveways and walkways, birdbaths and bird feeders! If we are unable to get a quarterly meter reading, a letter is generated to the homeowner stating the problem and a minimum bill is sent. Without benefit of obtaining an actual reading, we may be unaware of high water use which could point to a possible leak. Accordingly, we would not be able to advise you of a potential problem, which could waste water and dollars. To save time and money, please keep meter pits and the surrounding area clear. If

you need directions to find your water meter pit, please call us at (516) 981-7280.

## **Basement Meters:**

In some older residential areas, meters are located in the basement. They are usually connected to an exterior, black plastic "touch pad" which allows the meter reader to gather the reading remotely. Frequently, these devices are damaged or the wire running to the meter becomes severed. Once this occurs, we are no longer able to retrieve a meter reading without physically reading the meter. Letters will be sent to the homeowner asking for access to the meter to obtain a reading, check for leaks, install a new meter or install a new wire and touch pad from the meter. These tasks require an appointment when the homeowner will be available. They are always made for a specific day, Monday through Friday, and for a specific time, during normal working hours. We never give our consumers a time window that keeps them waiting for hours. We know your time is important, and we appreciate your cooperation.





**Jericho Water District**  
125 Convent Road  
Syosset, NY 11791 USA  
(516) 921-8280



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**Email: [jwdinfo@jerichowater.org](mailto:jwdinfo@jerichowater.org)**

Proudly serving you since 1923.



Turn off outside spigots

Disconnect & drain hoses

Insulate water pipes



Check meter pits

**Time To Plan Ahead**

Each year more than a few unfortunate customers endure the inconvenience of being without water and bear the cost of repairs to broken pipes as a result of a frozen water service. Here are ways to help prevent this from happening in your home:

- ❄ Turn off outside spigots from inside the house. Be sure to drain the lines and leave the spigots open.
- ❄ Disconnect and drain outside hoses. Drain all lawn sprinkler systems.
- ❄ Insulate water pipes in unheated areas to prevent freezing and subsequent thawing and bursting.

**For homes with outside meters:**

- ❄ Check meter pit covers to ensure that they are securely locked down and are not cracked or broken. Report any problems to the District immediately.
- ❄ Your meter pit cover should be level with the surrounding area, and your meter should be between 12-15 inches below. If it is very close to the surface or very deep, it will be more prone to freezing.
- ❄ Meter pits should be free of debris and dirt, which would restrict the free flow of air around the meter and pipes.