



BUILDING? RENOVATING? CONTACT US FIRST.

Home construction and renovation are booming in the Jericho Water District, and, consequently, the demand for water is surging. Smaller homes are being replaced by larger homes, typically with in-ground sprinkler systems and updated kitchens and baths. Most homes 50 years or older have ¾ inch diameter copper water pipes. The JWD's current standard (adopted in 2014) requires that ¾ inch diameter water service lines **MUST** be discontinued at the water main - and new 1 inch service lines **MUST** be installed.

The Town of Oyster Bay, and most villages within our boundaries, requires a "letter of disconnect" from the JWD when structures are demolished. Homeowners must have a qualified plumbing contractor who is bonded with the District disconnect the existing service in the presence of District personnel. Once completed, a letter certifying the disconnect is generated.

To schedule a disconnect:

Homeowners should send a letter to the Superintendent or an email to serviceops@jerichowater.org requesting a "letter of disconnect" and include:

- **Tax lot information**
- **Owner's address and contact information**
- **A copy of a road opening permit from the entity that oversees the road**

Once the letter is received, your plumbing contractor should call the District's Service Department to schedule the work. There are no District charges associated with the disconnect.



Improvements On the Horizon.

Over the next 18 months, the JWD will conduct two new, major improvement projects. In Brookville, a new 1.5-million-gallon elevated tank will replace the iconic 1924 vintage Wheatley tank, which is approaching the end of its useful service life, and add 50 percent more capacity. With increasing water demands*, the narrow 'Witches Hat' tank struggles to maintain water pressure from June through September during peak demand hours. The new structure will be rounder, less angular and wider to maintain water pressure longer. Built on the same District-owned property, it will also be multi-legged, but the 'Witches Hat' design, a staple of early 20th century tank manufacturers, will have gone the way of drive-in movies and subway tokens.

Eliminating VOCs and Nitrates

Two of the District's 25 wells have been severely impacted by elevated levels of VOCs and nitrates. Located approximately 2,400 feet apart along Jericho Turnpike in Jericho, the wells are critical to meeting peak hourly demand. One well has not been used in three years and the other has been in use sporadically.

The construction of a packed tower aerator (for VOC removal) and an ion exchange unit (to remove nitrates) will enable the return of both wells to daily operation. The treatment plant will be capable of producing 2,800 gallons of potable water per minute, and the project will include upgrades to the District's current operations and billing systems.

*(2016 Peak Day: 37.6 million gallons. Minimum Day: 4.29 million gallons)





KEEPING METER PITS CLEAR CLARIFIES BILLING

The JWD reads all water meters quarterly. Most meters are located in a pit in the ground on your property, which, theoretically, makes for easy access, right?

Well not exactly.

Our meter readers often have to traverse an obstacle course to read meters. Many pits are buried beneath construction debris, lawn waste and piles of leaves or hidden by new lawns, covered by driveways and walkways and even beneath ornamental planters or birdbaths. And meter access is frequently obstructed by plantings, which have overgrown the area.

These obstructions slow down the meter reading process and very often preclude getting a reading at all. In that case, you are issued an estimated bill...which has to be adjusted when a meter reader is dispatched out again and an actual reading is obtained. Leak detection efforts are also hampered by this inability to get an actual reading. In a water emergency, the faster the meter pit is located, the sooner your water can be turned off.

It's important to keep meter pit areas clear. If you're not aware of their location, call our Service Department for that information.



BACKFLOW TESTING.

Backflow testing is critical to the protection of our public water supply. Backflow can occur when street water pressure drops, reversing the flow into the water supply. Backflow double-check valves safeguard the water supply by preventing water from reversing direction.

New York State Sanitary Code Part 5, Section 1.31 (a) (3) requires that every backflow device be tested by a certified backflow tester once a year. The JWD requests that this test be done prior to June 30 of each year. We recommend coordinating testing with the opening of your sprinkler system in the spring. Once the tester has performed the test and completed the form, copies must be submitted to the Nassau County Health Department and the JWD. Forms should include your Jericho Water District account number, your address and your phone number. Test results should be submitted by only one of the following:

- > Mail or fax: (516) 921-7554
- > email – backflow@jerichowater.org or jbarbato@jerichowater.org.



HYDRANT CARE?

How important is it to keep fire hydrants clear of snow and ice? Lives could depend on it! This requires some vigilance as plows may inadvertently cover hydrants, but if we all take ownership of the nearest hydrant and keep it clearly visible, everyone will be safer. Also please notify the District immediately if you see damaged or broken hydrants.

LIWC Report

When our Director of Water Conservation Jane Barbato highlighted a panel at the recent LI Water Conference Drinking Water Symposium, she raised a lot of eyebrows. It wasn't by stating that the JWD is New York's largest municipal water district or from her overview of pumpage statistics. It was Jane's ardent message for water conservation that roused the crowd. To paraphrase:



Jane Barbato with Superintendent Peter F. Logan

“Every day I have the opportunity to provide consumers with information that has the potential to change the way they think about water and how they use it. But education does not necessarily equate with change. For people to view water as the truly invaluable resource it is, there has to be a change in consciousness, a shift in priorities and a broader vision that goes beyond the confines of a desire for the ultimate green lawn.”

Well stated, Jane!

BECOME A Water Detective



The most sensible starting point is by becoming an avid leak detector!

- ▶ **First...bathrooms!** Toilet leaks can waste 200-1,000 gallons of water per day. Check every toilet for leaks by using food coloring or dye tablets (available from the District). Place dye tablets/food coloring in the toilet tanks, wait 15 minutes without flushing. If the dye has entered the bowl, it's leaking, and it's in everyone's best interests to have repairs made immediately!
- ▶ **Second...irrigation.** Over 60 percent of our water is used for irrigation! By making even tiny adjustments to your irrigation schedule you can reduce seasonal water use dramatically.
- ▶ **Third...avoid irrigating in April.** Wait until later in the season when the water is actually needed to supplement inadequate rainfall. Check your system for leaks constantly. Run it manually once weekly and check each part for leaks – control valves, pop up and stationary sprinkler heads and supply lines. You'll save water by cutting back five minutes on each zone.
- ▶ **Fourth...monitor your grass and shrubs.** They will let you know when they have just enough water. And ask your irrigation professional to check your rain sensor in the spring when the system is turned on.

Are You Ready For WINTER?



Preparing your home for winter will help you avoid the expense, inconvenience and aggravation associated with frozen pipes. The following are some tried and true recommendations:

- 1** Shut off outside spigots from inside the house. Open the faucet to drain the lines and leave the outside valve open.
- 2** Disconnect and drain water hoses or bring them inside to prevent them from damage. This will probably prolong their life.
- 3** Ensure underground irrigation systems are turned off and winterized. This is better left to a professionals who will remove any water and check for damage and broken heads.
- 4** Insulate water pipes in unheated or underheated areas to prevent freezing and subsequent thawing and bursting. Seal leaks in walls that allow cold air to reach interior pipes.
- 5** Make sure meter pit covers are intact and securely locked down. Your meter pit cover should be level with the surrounding area and the meter should be 12 to 15 inches below to prevent freezing.
- 6** If a pipe becomes frozen, bringing heat into that area should thaw it out gradually. While waiting for it to thaw, locate the shutoff valve for that pipe or the main valve for the house. When the ice in the pipe melts allowing water to pass, you may discover you have a leak likely caused by ice expanding in the pipe and splitting it. Plumber time! Shut off the valve and make your call.
- 7** Snowbirds should contact a plumber to winterize their homes.



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WATER CONSERVATION: **HELP WANTED!**

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) is requiring all Nassau and Suffolk county public water suppliers to reduce water that is used primarily for irrigation purposes by 5 percent each year for the next three years. 2012 was selected as the standard for comparison because it was considered a year of average precipitation. In 2012 during the irrigation months, the JWD pumped 1.45 billion gallons, so a 5 percent reduction would equate to saving 72,000,000 gallons of water. The DEC is requiring the District to reduce pumpage by that amount, therefore everyone's participation in water conservation efforts is necessary for us to achieve that goal.