



## THAT TIME AGAIN!

When most people think spring, they usually don't think of simultaneously opening their sprinkler systems and getting their backflow prevention devices tested, however, New York State Sanitary code Part 5, Section 1.31 (a) (3) requires that every backflow device must be tested by a certified backflow tester every year. The Jericho Water District requests that you have this device tested before June 30 of each year.

Most plumbing and sprinkler installation/maintenance companies have certified backflow testers on staff. Please check with them regarding fees for the testing service. Upon completion, they will provide the testing form which must be sent to the JWD and the Nassau County Health Department. Please provide them with your Jericho Water Account number to facilitate the recording of the test. Remember, the backflow prevention device can be tested at any time, even if your sprinkler system is off for the season.



Backflow prevention device



## WILD & WOOLLY WINTER WEATHER

If there ever was a sterling example of the value of preventive maintenance, the performance of our service department during this past winter would be it. Despite unusually frigid temperatures and more snow, sleet and ice than anyone bargained for, the District's investment paid large dividends in terms of uninterrupted service! With 350 miles of water mains that would reach Richmond, Virginia if laid end to end, as well as over 3,600 fire hydrants, that's never a forgone conclusion.

We regularly upgrade infrastructure (some of it dating from 1924) on a scheduled program. For example, in 2014, the District rehabilitated Well 13 (Woodbury) and Well 27 (Old Brookville) for general maintenance. The work was performed during the winter months to ensure that the wells would be up and running for the busy pumping season.

The maintenance is intensive. Our well rehabilitation program includes:

- Removing, inspecting and if necessary, refurbishing/replacing the electric motor.
- Removing and inspecting the pump and replacing worn parts or possibly the entire pump assembly.



- Cleaning the well casing to remove any rust or scaling.
- Video recording the well casing to ensure the screen and well casing are intact.
- Reinstalling the new/rebuilt pump.
- Reinstalling the new/rebuilt electric motor.
- Disinfecting the well.
- Performing a pump test to ensure that the pump is producing the proper amount of water.

The District also upgrades equipment to meet current health department or District standards. This includes installing a chlorine residual/pH monitor where only a pH monitor is currently in use, raising the wellhead to at least 18 inches above the finished floor (to prevent floodwater from contaminating the well) and installing an automatic shut-off for the well, when the wellhead cannot be raised. When the work is completed, the inside of the well house is then painted.

In 2014 the District also extended water mains in Third Street in Woodbury and Motts Cove Road in Glen Head to accommodate five new homes. In addition, the Syosset elevated storage tank (1.5 million gallons capacity) was repainted.

We are pleased to report that in 2014-2015, the Jericho Water District's preventive maintenance program went according to plan...despite the ravages of Old Man Winter.

# IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

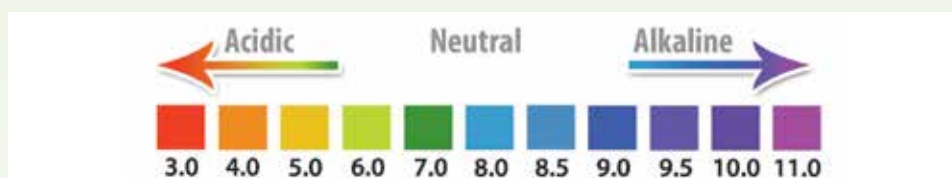


Our lawns epitomize the phrase “high maintenance.” For seven months of the year they must be carefully tended to produce the desired result. They must be sown, irrigated, fertilized, thatched, weeded and mowed. Are you ready to make a change for the better?



## Tips for a healthier, lower maintenance, less costly landscape.

1. Test soil pH every year. Soil with a pH between 6.2 – 6.5 is naturally more drought and disease resistant, hence there is less need to apply fertilizers and pesticides. Instead, lime may be applied to achieve a pH in this range.



2. Seed lawns with tall or fine fescue grasses rather than the coveted (but less hardy) Kentucky Bluegrasses. Fescues are drought tolerant and disease resistant and require less fertilization. They don't produce thatch and can withstand heavy traffic.
3. Most of Long Island is underlain by either clay or sand. By adding compost, clay soils will become looser, allowing for better transport of water and nutrients. Sandy soils will retain the water and nutrients that are applied for a longer time, allowing it to be better utilized by the plant material it supports.
4. When irrigating, only apply water at a rate equal to the absorptive capacity of the soil. As a general rule of thumb, water should be applied at a rate of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " per hour. Application at a greater rate will create runoff, resulting in water waste and possible groundwater contamination.
5. Install drip irrigation to deliver water to the root zone of plants and shrubs. Less water will be used, and it will be delivered exactly where needed, resulting in less runoff and evaporation.

## The Fact Is – Only In AMERICA

How much water is used on JWD lawns? We calculated the amount using the lowest pumpage day (5.12 million gallons). Multiplied by 365, the total is 1.87 billion gallons. The JWD pumped 5.2 billion gallons total for the year... which means that 3.4 billion gallons of water was used mostly on lawns and landscaping!

- In addition to being the title of a great old song\*, “Only In America” would someone raise a crop (GRASS) every year only to mow it down and throw it away! Consider leaving grass clippings less than one inch in length on your lawn. Studies show that as a result there will be less incidence of disease, less need for additional fertilizers and greater earthworm activity. Earthworms act as soil conditioners, enhancing transport of air, water and nutrients through the soil structure. Good news for your wallet, your lawn and the environment!
- **Where else...**would millions of gallons of potable water be used year after year to irrigate this crop that we discard?
- **Where else...**would we pay less for this most critical resource than we do for any other product essential to daily life...including oil, gas and electricity?

\*The Drifters, Jay and The Americans, others



## SPRINKLING RULES & REGULATIONS

- A permit is required for all new underground sprinkler systems or the alteration or addition to an existing underground sprinkler system.
- All new underground sprinkler systems must be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device, programmable time clock, moisture sensor and separate curb stop.
- No irrigation is allowed before April 1 or after October 31.
- No irrigation is allowed between the hours of 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM.
- **Even numbered houses or houses with no number may water on even numbered days.**
- **Odd numbered houses may water on odd numbered days.**

## ESTIMATED FIRST QUARTER WATER USAGE

For much of February and March 2015, snow blanketed the area burying water meters and rendering them unavailable to our meter readers. As a result, meter readings were estimated for consumers who are billed for first quarter usage in February and March of each year. This affected almost everyone with an account number that began with 20, 21, 25, 26, 30, 31, 35, 36, 40, 41, 45, 46, 50, 51, 55 and 56.

If your bill was estimated, this was indicated on the upper and lower portion of your bill. If your bill was based on an actual reading, no reference to an estimate was made.

Your second quarter May 2015 or June 2015 bill will reflect actual usage, and your account will be adjusted if necessary.





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



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**Business Hours:** 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Weekdays

**24-Hour Emergency Phone:** (516) 921-8280

**Fax:** (516) 921-7554

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

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#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The next time you remit a payment to the JWD, please provide us with a phone number and email address that you would like us to use should we need to contact you. Rest assured that this information will not be shared beyond the District.



Please legibly print the phone number above your name and address on the small remittance portion that you return with your check. For those who pay electronically, please call us at (516) 921-8280 or email us at [jwdinfo@jerichowater.org](mailto:jwdinfo@jerichowater.org), providing both your account number and preferred contact phone number.

**(516) 921-8280**  
**[jwdinfo@jerichowater.org](mailto:jwdinfo@jerichowater.org)**