



## Your Water Account: **5** Facts

- 1** Your JWD account is different from those of other utilities. Consumers are billed quarterly.
- Account number begins with 2 or 3:  
Billing: February, May, August, November.
  - Account number begins with 4 or 5:  
Billing: March, June, September, December.
  - Account number begins with 6 or 7:  
Billing: January, April, July, October.

Mark your calendar when to expect your bill. If you do not receive it when anticipated, please let us know.

- 2** Selling or renting your home? New owners/tenants do not receive new account numbers but assume the account number designated for that property.

- 3** It's critical to call the District for a final water reading. We'll need to know:
- Closing date with as much advance notice as possible.
  - Name, fax and phone number of the seller's attorney.
  - Seller's forwarding address.
  - New owner's name and phone number.

All efforts will be made to do the final reading before the closing so the bill can be sent to the attorney and satisfied at the closing. If the final bill is not settled at closing, the new owner will be responsible for past water usage.

- 4** If you rent out your property, the property owner of record is responsible for ALL unpaid water bills, NOT the tenant.

- 5** Water bills more than 30 days past due from the due date incur a 10% penalty. In accordance with Town Law, water bills unpaid as of May 31, which remain unpaid as of August 31, will be filed with the Town of Oyster Bay and added to your general tax bill for collection.

## THE TROUBLE WITH TOILETS

**T**rekkies! Don't confuse this article with the famous Star Trek episode "The Trouble With Tribbles..." but maintaining toilets can be equally frustrating.

Each year, Jericho Water District tracks consumer water leaks detected by our service personnel, and toilets account for 30 to 40 percent of these leaks. It is surprising that something in plain sight should be so problematic, but a leaking toilet may not be readily detected for several reasons. Most often the leaks occur in the toilet that is used the least or is in the most remote part of the house, thus hampering the discovery of the leak.

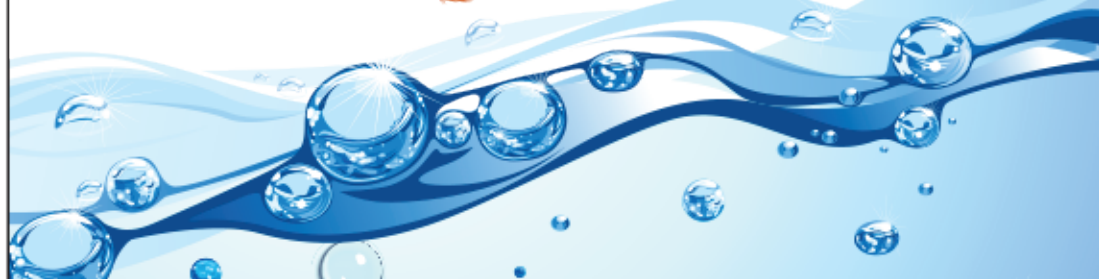
Common misconceptions compound the problem. Just because the toilet is not overflowing or showing water outside the bowl, doesn't mean there is no problem. Most toilet leaks are not visible because the water goes directly into the cesspool or sewer. The leak can be so small that detection can only be done by the use of food coloring or dye tablets, which are available through the District.

Another way of detecting a toilet leak is to determine if there is condensation on the exterior. If

the toilet has not been used for some time, this may indicate a leak. When fresh water is constantly being introduced into the toilet tank to replace the water lost through a leak it will cause the tank to "sweat."

Often the leak is intermittent, occurring only when the toilet is flushed and continues to "run on" until the handle is jiggled and the float ball seats properly. Unfortunately, many times people report that they heard the toilet running but believed that it was just making noise and was not actually leaking. Consequently, no repairs were initiated and hundreds if not thousands of gallons of water were wasted each day.

A monthly or quarterly test for leaks in all toilets, using dye tablets or food coloring, would do much to reduce this waste. Once the leak is detected, those that are handy may implement repairs by purchasing and installing replacement parts. For more challenging problems, the services of a plumber may be required. As always, District personnel are available to answer questions for trekkies and the general public alike!



# Water Words To The Wise

Lord Tennyson might not agree, but on Long Island, spring means heavy-duty care and feeding of our lawns. This winter's dry, relatively mild conditions posed little inconvenience compared to the previous winter. Now winter's lower precipitation rates bring on an added, if less welcome, spring significance.

How much watering makes lawns happy and green? Depending on conditions, lawns generally need less water in spring and fall (1/2- to 1-inch per week) than in summer (1 1/2 to 2 inches per week). Irrigation may be a time saver, but it should only be used to supplement precipitation. If our area receives sufficient rainfall, irrigation should be shut off, whether automatically by a rain sensor or manually. To encourage strong, more drought resistant root growth, postpone the start of irrigation for as long as possible. Once begun, lawns should be irrigated less frequently and for longer periods each time. This will drive roots deeper into the soil.

"In spring  
a young  
man's fancy  
turns to...  
**Lawns??**"

Also, allow lawn grass to grow to 2 1/2 to 3 inches before mowing. Mowers should be set to remove only the top 1/2-inch of the grass blade. The resulting grass cuttings can be left on the lawn where they will decompose and act as a natural fertilizer.

## REVISED AUTOMATIC LAWN IRRIGATION TIMES

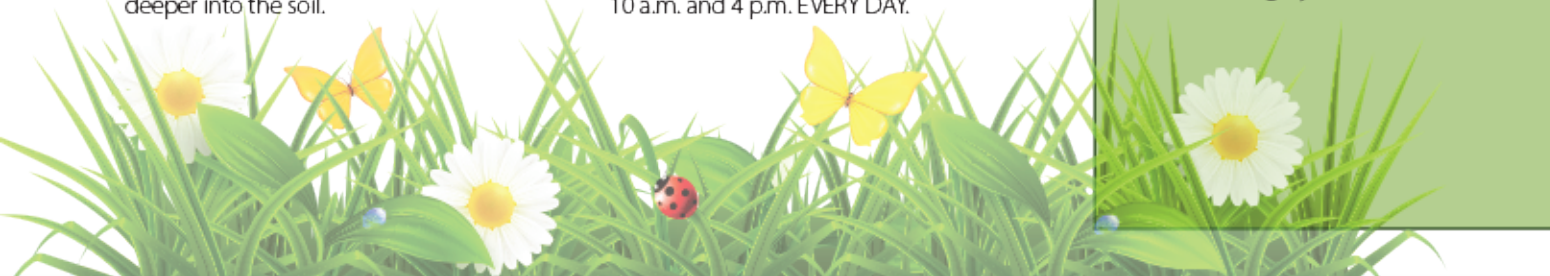
Lawn irrigation places extreme demands on water supply systems. This is especially intense between midnight and 7 a.m. As a result, the District now requires all commercial/industrial properties (apartment complexes, condominiums, co-ops, schools, HOAs, etc.), to restrict water usage for irrigation to between 6 p.m. and midnight on their appropriate watering days. This six-hour period is more than adequate to keep landscaping healthy. By extending the overnight water period, our ability to maintain adequate pressure systemwide for all consumers will not be compromised. **And Don't Forget...** Nassau County Lawn Watering Ordinance 248-A-1987 prohibits lawn watering for all properties between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. EVERY DAY.

## ARE YOU ODD OR EVEN?

- Even numbered houses: water on even dates.
- Odd numbered houses: water on odd dates.
- Unnumbered houses: water on even dates.

## SPRINKLING RESTRICTIONS:

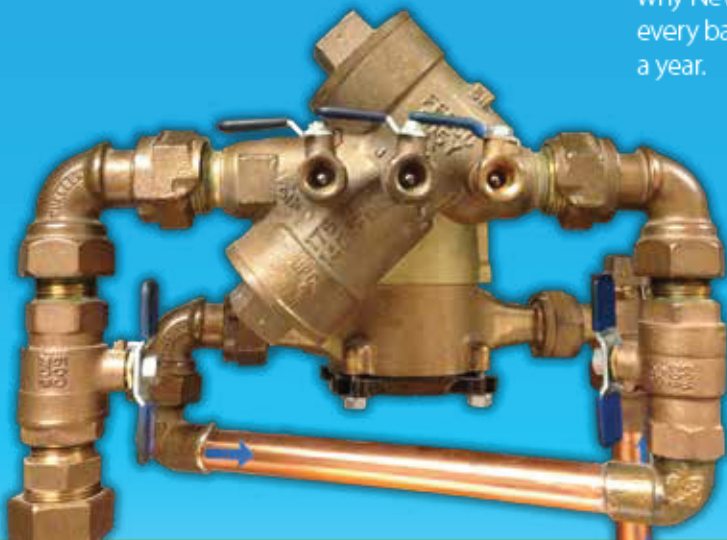
- No sprinkling between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Sprinkling is prohibited during periods of rainfall.
- Hoses must have a shut-off nozzle that is automatically self-closing, requiring hand pressure on the valve to permit the flow of water.
- A permit is required for all new underground sprinkler systems or the modification of an existing system.



## BACKFLOW TESTING: Important...And It's the Law

**B**ackflow is the reverse flow of water in a piping or distribution system. Without a backflow device, water in a lawn irrigation system could potentially allow fertilizers et al. to backflow into a water supply. That's why New York State Sanitary Code Part 5, Section 1.31 (a)(3) requires that every backflow device must be tested by a certified tester at least once a year.

The JWD asks 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 that 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.



# Improving Infrastructure

Managing infrastructure is never as easy as A-B-C, but having a flexible program certainly helps! The District acquired medium-duty construction equipment in 2015, all purchased using the District's procurement policy to ensure the best value for the money.



**1.** The District purchased a self-propelled concrete/asphalt cutting saw. Designed to cut through asphalt and concrete roadways, this will make accessing broken mains and services more efficient.

**2.** Wach's trailer mounted valve exerciser. This exotic sounding tool will exercise the District's thousands of water main valves. District employees no longer will have to excavate the valve to access rounded or broken operating nuts. And it logs the coordinates of each valve worked on, making locating it in the future much quicker.



**3.** New 2016 GMC 4-wheel drive rack body truck with a hydraulic tailgate and a Meyer's Super-V snowplow. This will be used as a carryall for parts and safety equipment, and, you guessed it, for clearing snow from District sites!



## SALUTING OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM



Memorial Day is the most solemn of Federal holidays as it celebrates those who died while serving our great country. Established on May 5, 1868, as Decoration Day, the holiday helped unify a nation fragmented by the deep divisions of the American Civil War, eventually representing the fallen of both north and south. The Jericho Water District honors the brave men and women who gave their lives in all the wars, military actions and conflicts since then, as well as those veterans who served. We remember their hardships and sacrifices, we commemorate their sense of duty, and we salute all who have defended and preserved our American way of life.



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**Proudly serving you since 1923.**

**HYDRANT HEALTH!**

**Rx for 3,700 hydrants**

The District continually maintains approximately 3,700 fire hydrants. If one is not operating properly, please notify us immediately at (516) 921-8280.

**Usage Permits**

Using District hydrants for purposes other than firefighting requires a permit. Usually seen as a decal on a vehicle's driver side door or spray tank, this denotes the fee has been paid and permission has been granted. Permit holders are restricted to using blue domed fire hydrants exclusively. Please notify us immediately if you suspect illegal usage.



**Don't Hide Hydrants!**

The District thanks all those residents who adopted or cared for our hydrants this winter. Shoveling snow to keep them clear is hard work, and we are grateful for your efforts and dedication.

Is the hydrant near your home is partially blocked? Hidden hydrants can slow fire response and endanger homeowners and firefighters alike. Well-intentioned property owners often plant shrubs to hide what some consider unsightly. However, the fire department may have a difficult time locating and operating hydrants because of ornamental shrubs and undergrowth. Should a fire occur, spotting hydrants quickly might be a lifesaver. Please trim back bushes and undergrowth for safety's sake!



District employees Chris Smith and Joe Suriano

**Who's Who?**

JWD service personnel may occasionally arrive on your property in the course of normal operations. Each one carries a photo ID card with a color photo, name, title, signature and the official JWD logo. Before you allow anyone representing themselves as a District employee into your home, always ask to see their ID cards.