



# 1,4-DIOXANE **UPDATE**

**A**s a follow-up to what was previously reported in our Spring 2019 newsletter, the District is continuing to take steps in preparation for the anticipated New York State Department of Health's (NYSDOH) mandated Maximum Contamination Level (MCL) of 1 part per billion (ppb) for 1,4-dioxane in potable drinking water. Of the District's 25 public water supply wells, 4 are currently over the MCL, with another 3 that are over half of the MCL.

In July of this year, the Governor's office announced that it has accepted the New York State Drinking Water Quality Council's recommendations for maximum contaminant levels in drinking water for PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-dioxane, and has directed the Department to begin the regulatory process for adopting these enforceable standards. The standard of 1 part per billion for 1,4-dioxane is the nation's first-ever level set for that contaminant. There was a 60-day public comment period, which ended on September 24th, 2019, after which the comments were to be reviewed, and a recommendation to revise or submit the MCLs for adoption by the Public Health and Health Planning Council, subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Health. As of now, the comments and proposed regulation have not been made public.



Jericho is a member of the Long Island Water Conference (LIWC), an organization made up of public water providers on Long Island. LIWC has acknowledged the need to address the removal of 1,4-dioxane from drinking water. To do that effectively, and realistically, the LIWC is requesting that the NYSDOH adopt a revised protocol, allowing water districts a 4-year phase in period to construct and implement treatment equipment once it has been approved by the NYSDOH for the removal of 1,4-dioxane. There are approximately 130 public water supply wells on Long Island that require treatment in order to meet the MCL.

If a phase in period is not accepted, it will be impossible for the District to have treatment systems installed immediately to each affected well, in order to be in compliance with the MCL. This would

mean removing these particular wells from service, which would affect the District's ability to provide sufficient water during peak demand times. In addition to needing to secure millions of dollars per well, to purchase and install treatment equipment, the availability of both the equipment and qualified contractors is extremely limited. There are only a few manufacturers of the specialized equipment required for removing 1,4-dioxane. With approximately 130 wells on Long Island that need immediate treatment, there will most likely be a backlog.

Which brings us to our current situation. If the NYSDOH does not allow for the LIWC proposed phase in period, the District will be compelled to immediately implement mandatory restrictions on non-essential water use. Taking several of our wells out of service, due to the MCL requirement, will severely hamper the District's ability to provide potable water for essential use, which includes firefighting purposes. We are working with our engineers to develop viable solutions that would be equally fair to all of our customers. These restrictions could be implemented as soon as the summer of 2020.

The District is continuing its lawsuit against Dow Chemical, a manufacturer of 1,4-dioxane, as well as Ferro Corporation (another manufacturer of 1,4-dioxane) and Vulcan Materials Company (licensed the technology for 1,4-dioxane stabilization of trichloroethane (TCA) from Dow Chemical). We are asking the court to hold these companies responsible for paying for the necessary equipment to remove the 1,4-dioxane from our drinking water, as well as ongoing costs for operations, maintenance, testing and compliance. Our attorneys have filed the necessary motions and paperwork, but no date for a trial has been set.

This article is meant to inform you as to what may happen in the near future with the state of our water. As information is made available, and decisions regarding operational procedures are made, we will continue to provide updates through direct mail or on our website (<http://www.jerichowater.org>). We feel that it is important to keep our customers as informed as possible.

# Cellular Smart Meter Program & EYE ON WATER

**13,000 and counting...** that's how many meters District service personnel have installed since the implementation of our Smart Meter Program (2017). If your cellular meter has not yet been installed, it will likely be done within the next year.

## Meter Location:

Have an outside meter? We won't need entry to your home, and you do not have to be home for your upgrade. Have an inside meter? You'll receive letters requesting an appointment when you will be home. Please call the District regarding a specific installation date and time, and we'll do our best to accommodate your request.

## Installation Info:

- Meter upgrading takes approximately an hour, and you will be without water for that time.
- After installation and account updating, (usually about 2 weeks), you will receive a letter encouraging you to sign up for **Eye on Water**.

## What's Eye on Water?

**Eye on Water** can be a terrific water conservation tool when it is used to its full advantage.

### How to Sign Up:

On our website, [www.jerichowater.org](http://www.jerichowater.org):

1. Click on the "Billing" tab and select **Eye on Water Monitoring**.
2. Follow the step-by-step instructions to set up your account.
3. You will need to provide:
  - Your JWD account number
  - Your zip code



## How to Keep Up:

Many residents sign up but rarely review their water usage. The first thing you should do after signing up for **Eye on Water** is to set a Leak Alert. This will provide valuable information regarding leaks and alert you to when constant flow has been detected every hour in a 24-hour period.

1. Go into your **Eye on Water** account and click on "Set Alert."

2. Choose "Continuous Flow" as the flow type to monitor.

3. Set an alert for when hourly continuous flow exceeds the number of gallons you want to monitor. You can set it to alert you when water is in constant use at the rate of 1.6 gallons per hour which equates to less than 1/10 gallon per minute.

4. Indicate where the alert should be sent and how often you want to be alerted.

## Have Sprinklers?

Note how much water your system uses and check frequently to see if your water usage on irrigation days approximates that number. This will allow you to quickly rectify sprinkler system leaks, reducing the amount of wasted water. Remember, many sprinkler leaks only occur when the sprinkler system is on, so you will not necessarily get a leak alert because water has not been in use constantly for over 24 hours.

## JWD Monitoring:

JWD personnel also monitor your water use. If we detect a possible leak in your water service, we will contact you:

1. By the email address you provided. FYI emails can inadvertently end up in your spam/junk folder. If so, mark them as "not spam" or "not junk" to prevent future occurrences).
2. Lacking an email address, we will call the phone number you provided and leave a detailed message concerning the alert.
3. Lastly, we will send a cellular leak alert letter to the billing address on the account.

*We urge all consumers to update their accounts with current phone numbers and email addresses so we can better serve you.*

## MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

### WHEATLEY ROAD ELEVATED WATER STORAGE TANK CONSTRUCTION:

Ground was broken on the District's new 1.5 million-gallon storage tank in August 2018, and construction was completed in spring 2019. Sandblasting and painting will continue into the winter months to complete as much as possible, weather permitting. The contractor will return in early March to remobilize and prepare for the final push to have the tank completed by summer 2020.



### PROGRESS AT MERRY LANE TREATMENT PLANT, JERICHO:

Begun last year, the walls, roof and most of the equipment has been installed in the new plant. With the building being made weathertight, progress can continue during the winter in anticipation of going online in spring 2020.

For more information visit our website at <http://www.jerichowater.org>.

**Thank you...to all our neighbors who live near these sites! At times construction has been unavoidably noisy, dusty and dirty, and we are extremely grateful for your patience.**

# Thinking About Selling Your Home?



Over the last five years, an average of **755 homes have changed hands in the Jericho Water District each year**. An important part of every closing is getting utilities changed over into the new owners' name.

**You're not alone.**

Here are our procedures to accommodate your request.

- A minimum of three days prior to your scheduled closing date your attorney must request a final reading from the District office, and a final reading request form will be faxed back to your attorney.
- The form must be filled out completely with accurate information and faxed back to the District. Your closing request will then be scheduled for the date requested.
- When our Service Tech arrives at your property he will complete a checklist form and provide it to our office, which lists any problems regarding your water service and/or meter pit.
- The checklist will be faxed to both the seller's attorney and the buyer's attorney.
- Any problems noted should be resolved before the closing. Information on how to correct these problems can be provided by our Service Department.

- If there are no problems with changing the meter, a new meter will be installed. If the meter cannot be changed due to a problem with the meter pit or service, the property owner will be given time to correct the problem. If, after a specified length of time, the meter still has not been changed, the District will impose a fine on the account. This fine will be imposed each quarter until the problem preventing the meter from being changed has been fixed.

**Ownership:** The meter and meter pit are owned by the property owner. If you plan to change the grade of your property or redesign your driveway, contact the District prior to having your work done. Meters must be made accessible at all times. If they get covered, buried or broken, we can guide you as to how to keep the meter and pit up to current District code.

And...if you receive a letter from the District telling you of a problem with your meter pit, please don't ignore it. If we are telling you that there is a problem, there is one, and it should be addressed as quickly as possible.



## Is that frost on the pumpkin?

Winter never advertises when it's coming, so be prepared early!

*Here are a few ways you can protect your home:*

- 1 **Disconnect and drain outside hoses. Store them inside for the winter to extend the life of the hose.**
- 2 **Turn off outside spigots from inside your house. Leave them open to allow drainage and prevent ice damage.**
- 3 **Irrigation systems must be winterized including blowing out the system to clear all water. Turn off all automatic timers and supply valves. Remove the timer's back up battery.**
- 4 **Insulate water pipes in unheated areas with foam pipe insulation. Seal leaks that**
- 5 **allow cold air to flow in using spray foam insulation.**
- 6 **Mark your home's main water valve for quick location in case of leak emergencies. It's usually located in your basement and in line with the meter pit on your front lawn.**
- 7 **Check that the water meter pit cover is securely locked down and not cracked or broken. Report problems to the JWD Service Department immediately.**
- 8 **Snow birds: Have a plumber winterize your home during your time in warmer climes.**

## ACCESSIBLE HYDRANTS SAVE TIME & LIVES

During winter, keeping hydrants accessible requires tenacity. Blowing snow and plowed snow can hide hydrants. This may happen several times during and after a snowstorm. Checking hydrant visibility frequently throughout the storm and subsequent clean up will help to ensure they can be readily located in emergencies. Homeowners in a cul-de-sac should take extra notice since hydrants there are more susceptible to being buried by plowed snow.



In winter or any season, please do not pile debris near the hydrant and refrain from planting shrubs, trees and ornamental bushes in close proximity. This will only hamper our volunteer firefighters' ability to quickly locate a hydrant in case of an emergency.

And please notify the District immediately if you encounter a damaged or broken hydrant. A hydrant that is severely leaning to one side or one where the main nozzle opening isn't facing the street is likely to be damaged. Call us right away.



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**Proudly serving you since 1923.**

OBSERVE BACKFLOW TESTING:  
**IT'S THE LAW!**



**B**ackflow devices protect our water supply by preventing water from flowing backward into the public water supply in the event of a loss of water pressure. That's why the New York State Department of Health requires that ALL properties with sprinkler systems, both residential and commercial, be equipped with an approved backflow prevention device.

**Annual Testing and Submissions:**

New York State Sanitary Code Part 5, Section 1.31 (a) (3) also requires that Backflow Prevention Devices be tested annually by a certified backflow tester. The District requests that testing be completed prior to June 30. We suggest residential customers coordinate testing with the opening of their sprinkler systems.

Copies of the completed "Report on Test and Maintenance of Backflow Prevention Device" must be submitted to the Nassau County Health Department and the Jericho Water District and include you:

- **JWD account number**
- **Address**
- **Phone number**
- **Tester's company name and phone number**

Submit backflow test results to the JWD by **ONE** of these methods:

- **MAIL**
- **FAX: (516) 921-7554**
- **EMAIL: [backflow@jerichowater.org](mailto:backflow@jerichowater.org) or [jbarbato@jerichowater.org](mailto:jbarbato@jerichowater.org)**

For non-residential accounts, failure to have the device tested before December 31 of each year will result in the imposition of civil penalties in the sum of \$250.00 under the Nassau County Civil Divisions Act.