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"THIS IS A MESSAGE FROM THE JERICHO WATER DISTRICT TO ALL DISTRICT RESIDENTS. CURRENT DROUGHT-LIKE CONDITIONS HAVE CAUSED AN EXTREME INCREASE IN THE DEMAND FOR WATER WITH A CORRESPONDING DROP IN THE SYSTEMS' WATER PRESSURE DURING TIMES OF PEAK AND NON-PEAK DEMAND. THEREFORE, WE ARE ADVISING ALL RESIDENTS TO STOP LAWN WATERING UNTIL YOU ARE NOTIFIED THAT NORMAL WATERING CAN BE RESUMED. THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR COOPERATION."

This message was broadcast during the first week in July, via phone, to all of the customers of the Jericho Water District. As you are aware, our area is experiencing a prolonged period of dry, hot weather. The tendency to increase lawn watering during these times has hampered our ability to provide sufficient water for the most basic of needs (bathing, drinking and cooking) of our consumers. It is understood that what we are asking is a change in perspective, but the reality of the situation is that unless we as a community reduce the amount of water being used for irrigation purposes our basic water needs may be compromised.

The following is some information to help us help you:

1. The Districts maximum usage day during non-watering seasons is approximately 4.5 million gallons; its maximum day this summer is over 35 million.
2. It is a Nassau County ordinance, in effect since 1987, that no watering can be done between 10:00 AM and 4:00 PM any day, and that odd and even water days must be observed.
3. Lawns can and will go dormant in the summer – Cornell Cooperative Extension advises "...studies show that as little as ¼ inch of water over a three week period can be enough to keep the sod from dying" (www.gardening.cornell.edu/lawn/lawncare/watering.html).
4. Most irrigation systems are operated by a time clock. By controlling when to water by turning the clock off and on, you can skip more days between watering without reprogramming the clock.
5. Thunderstorms can deliver copious amounts of rain, but one must remember that too much of a good thing all at once doesn't solve the problem. Much of what is received runs off to waste because of the speed with which it has fallen and the inability of the ground to absorb it all.

The District is actively pursuing more efficient and economical ways to provide the amount of water necessary for the health and safety of each district resident. Until that time, we ask that you continue to limit your water use to only what would be considered essential.

Thank you,
Board of Commissioners
Jericho Water District