



MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT

June 2, 2020

Odd/Even Watering - System Update

In regard to recent increased enforcement of the odd/even watering restrictions, MVD has issued the following background information.

Merrimack public water is being supplied by multiple groundwater production wells throughout town, whose pump rates are permitted by the state of NH. Those rates are designed to protect the water tables in the aquifers and ensure long term water supply. The production rate is rather steady, while the water consumption in town has strong peaks and valleys.

MVD operates and monitors three large buffer tanks in town to meet peak demand, by replenishing tank levels during the night at times of low usage.

Tank levels are fluctuating within just a few hours, especially when multiple consistent high volume usages like filling swimming pools, running lawn irrigation systems, etc. fall together, which typically happens during the first warm weeks of the year. The odd/even restriction for irrigation ensures that the highest consumption by far is being evened out across town, avoiding coincidental spikes in usage.

Even during peak usage times, MVD is to keep tank levels at a point that guarantees ample supply for the Merrimack Fire Department in case of an emergency. Leading up to and over this recent Memorial Day weekend, MVD saw a continuous drain of tank levels taking us close to the acceptable minimum, and therefore was forced to take immediate and decisive action identifying and addressing consumption not in compliance with the MVD by-laws all residential and commercial customers agree to when ordering delivery of public water.

MVD is therefore asking for cooperation in conserving water as one of our four currently active wells is off line for required maintenance. With wells 4&5 also currently off line since 2016, while a PFAS filtration plant is being constructed, this leaves MVD with three of six wells out of service. The filtration plant is scheduled for completion late summer 2020, at which time the water supply capacity will increase significantly.

Consequently, MVD has been working 24/7 to make sure water is pumped consistently throughout our system, and has stepped up enforcement of the odd/even watering restrictions, while we ask for your cooperation. For further details, please visit our website at MVDwater.org, subscribe to our e-mail notifications, and like our Facebook page. Thank you.

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