

Mayor's Letter July 15, 2018

Hello Everyone,

OVER THE LAST SEVERAL MONTHS we have been monitoring our daily water usage and production as this is the first summer with our new 50,000-gallon ground storage tank fully operational. Until the last week we have been able to handle demand running on only two wells; well #3 our deep well in the Paluxy aquifer and our shallow well #1 in the woodbine aquifer.

This week, we are having a mechanical issue with the deep well potentially caused by a drawdown of the aquifer. In response, we are operating our other Paluxy well (#2), but our overall maximum production capacity has been reduced by approximately 35 percent. **Although we have reduced pumping, because of our increased storage, we have adequate fire protection**, but our safety margins are less than our normal operating guidelines.

Therefore, in accordance with Ordinance 13-13, I have declared a STAGE 3 WATER EMERGENCY effective immediately.

Water Customers are required to limit irrigation of landscaped areas and adhere to the prescribed restrictions:

- 1) To the hours between 6:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.;
- 2) Water customers with even addresses water only on even numbered days;
- 3) Water customers with odd address water only on odd numbered days;
- 4) In addition, the washing of vehicles and hard surfaces is prohibited.

I have taken these actions because it is important to ensure that we maintain sufficient reserves for public safety. Three days a week of watering is more than adequate for irrigation – many of our surrounding towns are on one-day-a-week restrictions. Please adjust your sprinkler systems immediately. And when you water, please adjust the time of day.

We are working on the issue and evaluating our alternatives. We will be updating the situation as we learn more, check the town website for more information.

If everyone cuts back a little, we can easily achieve our goals without further restrictions.

Dr. Mark E. Vargus Mayor

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