



THE METER READER

June 2024

Mission Statement: To provide, protect, and maintain Joshua Tree's water - our vital community resource.

CONTENTS

>>> In This Issue

Pages 2-4

- June Water Saving Tips
- Curious Minds Want to Know
- In Case You Missed It
- Farmer's Market Booth
- Your Leadership in Action
- CIRP Update
- Plant of the Month
- Gardening Tips

>>> Special Articles

Pages 5-10

- JBWD earns "Transparency Award"
- The Facts on Leaks
- National Hydration Day--June 23
- Help Yourself/Neighbor Event Video
- JT Library Water Conservation Story Time
- Native Plant Seed Social



agenda

Board Meetings:

- Regular Board Meeting - 06.05.24 - 5:30 pm
- Regular Board Meeting - 06.19.24 - 5:30 pm

Committee Meetings:

- Finance Committee - 06.12.24 - 9:00 am
- Water Resources & Ops - 06.12.24 - 11:00 am

Classes & Events:

- On the radar: August Native Plant Seed Social in the JBWD Water Wise Demonstration Garden with guest speakers: August 22, 6-7 PM (see flyer). Meanwhile, remember that summer is the season to start collecting your seeds!

Monthly Water Use

March: 62.27 GPCD

The measure used for reporting water conservation is called Gallons per Capita per Day (GPCD). The GPCD value reported here reflects water usage from three months earlier. California aims to achieve 42 GPCD by the year 2030.

Keep saving, Joshua Tree!

»»» JUNE WATER SAVING TIP:

Water supports many aspects of life, such as health, businesses, gardening, and fire suppression. It also supports our quality of life, such as relaxing spas, refreshing swimming pools, and water recreation. In this season of summer heat, be mindful that it is also the season of high water use, and your water bill can be an eye-opener.

TIPS:

- Encourage children to have fun by plugging the tub for extended playtime instead of playing in the shower.
- To minimize evaporation in our extreme temperatures, keep all outdoor swimming pools covered when not in use.
- Water landscapes before 9 AM or after 6 PM for maximum efficiency.

»»» Curious Minds Want to Know

Enjoy the question of the month.

Question:

“I was told the State passed a new regulation for Chromium 6. How will that impact our Water District?”

Answer:

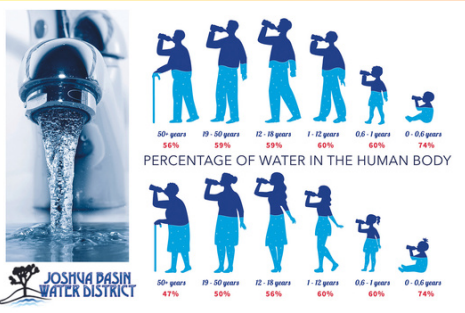
The short answer is that it will impact JBWD in all ways, including long-term and short-term costs, human resources, and our facilities.

JBWD is moving forward with plans to remain in compliance while keeping our community informed and involved in the changes we are facing due to this new regulation.



»»» IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

The May 2024 Wildcrafting Course did not disappoint! Students were given a perfect day to gather native seeds!



»»» JT FARMERS' MARKET

“ HYDRATION FOR GOOD HEALTH “

Inadequate hydration during the desert's heat can result in health issues often mistaken for other maladies. Learn more at our June Market booth on Saturdays, 8AM-1PM.



May's Public Service recognition of JBWD's leadership Board (L-R) Director Fick, VP Doolittle, President Floen, Director Short, and Director Jarlsberg. Thank you!



IN THIS ISSUE
YOUR LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

»» CIRP UPDATE

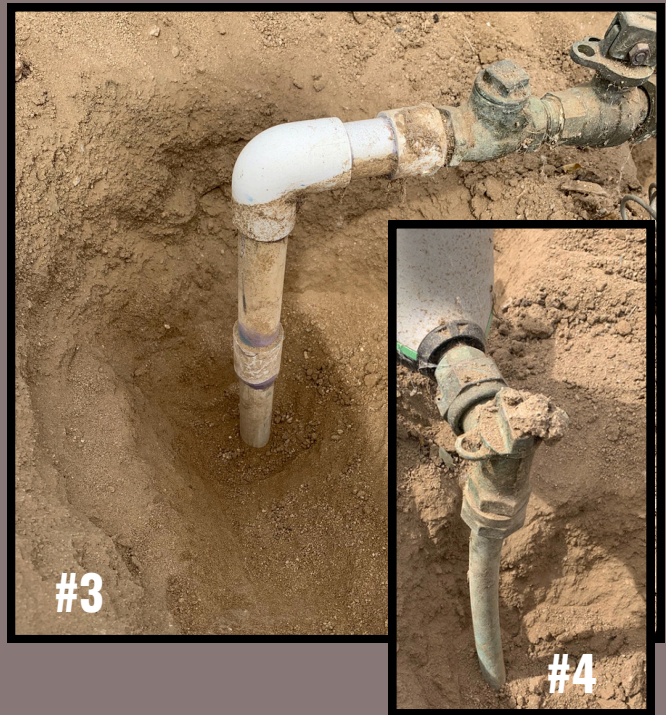


LOOKING FOR LEAD...
Mission accomplished!

5,700+ LCRR (lead & copper) inspections!

Photo Captions:
(L-R):

1. Uncovering
2. Completing
3. Documenting
4. Documenting



JBWD's Capital Improvement Replacement Program (CIRP) was launched in 2019, demonstrating a commitment to the District's infrastructure maintenance.

»» The "LCRR" (Lead Copper Rule Revised) inventory project is nearing completion and is expected to meet compliance by early June 2024. Although the deadline to inventory and report all lead service lines throughout the District (including on the customer's side) to the EPA is in October, our crews have worked diligently to finish this mandate early. This will allow us to return to many of our other ongoing Capital Improvement and Repair Projects.

June 2024

»»» Plant of the Month

Crape Myrtle

Lagerstroemia indica

Plant Form: Tree, shrub
Water Use: Low, moderate
Mature Size: 2-22 ft. tall and wide
Exposure: Full sun, part sun
Bloom Time: Summer (June – Aug), Fall (Sept – Nov)
Native to: China
Hardiness: Cold hardy to 15°F

Crape Myrtle's claim to fame is its incredibly showy, ruffled flowers, but it has many other admirable qualities. This ornamental shrub or tree offers year-round interest: flowers from summer into fall, fall foliage color, sculptural branching in winter after leaves drop when allowed to grow naturally, and interesting exfoliating bark, revealing a velvety trunk. Many hybrids are available to satisfy a spectrum of needs and preferences for size, height, and blossom color, from knee-high dwarfs to towering shrub-tree forms. These deciduous plants are very low-maintenance if you select the correct variety to fit your space (to avoid constant pruning, which some call "crape murder"). Flower colors range from white to pink, rose, red, and purple. Crape Myrtles are resistant to both rabbits and deer, tolerate most soils, grow well in containers, make great flowers for cutting, are patio friendly, easy care, water wise and fire wise. Landscape uses include privacy screens, hedges, specimen trees, mass plantings, borders, and containers.



Alliance for Water Awareness and Conservation

For more information on low-water-use gardening, contact your local water provider or go to

www.mojavewater.org/conservation/awac/

Photos © 2024 Robin Kobaly – Content © 2024 The Power of Plants (www.PowerofPlants.com)
Produced by The SummerTree Institute (www.SummerTree.org)



»»» GARDENING TIPS FOR YOUR DESERT-SMART LANDSCAPE:

- Prune fast-growing trees like mesquite, palo verde, and acacia to reduce chances of wind damage; don't remove more than 20% of a plant foliage at any one time to avoid stress or sunburn of trunk and branches.
- Keep adding to mulches throughout summer to conserve water, cool roots, and deter weeds. Be sure to water well below mulch before adding more.
- Continue to deadhead spent flowers for longer bloom cycle.
- Good season to plant or transplant palms or cacti.

HISTORIC USES OF CRAPE MYRTLE:

- Prevent cancer cells' growth, maintain bone health, beneficial for constipation, anti-inflammatory, blood thinner, control diabetes, anti-diarrheal, antiviral, antidote for high blood pressure, urinary conditions, and so much more!
- **See:** https://www.healthbenefitstimes.com/crepe-mrytle/#google_vignette



SPECIAL DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

**DISTRICT
TRANSPARENCY
CERTIFICATE OF
EXCELLENCE
RECIPIENT**

Joshua Basin Water District has earned the Transparency Certificate of Excellence Award!

Joshua Basin Water District was honored with the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence from the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) for its exceptional dedication to transparency and good governance.

“This award reflects Joshua Basin Water District’s commitment to open government,” said Sarah Johnson, General Manager. “Our staff deserves praise for their efforts in providing information to the public and encouraging engagement and oversight.”

To earn this recognition, Joshua Basin Water District fulfilled crucial governance transparency criteria, including providing ethics training for all board members, conducting open and public meetings, and promptly submitting financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California’s special districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

Special districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as Utility, wastewater treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries, and more. Districts are established by voters, and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods, depending on the need.

THE FACTS ON LEAKS

10

percent of homes have leaks that waste 90 gallons or more per day



Did you know?

Minor water leaks account for nearly



trillion gallons

of wasted water each year and is equal to annual household water use in nearly



million homes



Repair

leaks by checking faucet washers and gaskets for wear and replacing them if necessary



Replace old toilets with WaterSense models & save



13,000

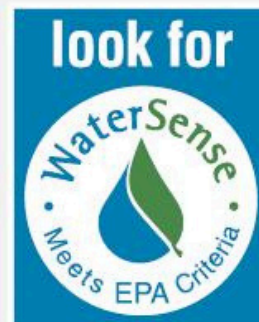
gallons of water savings for the average family

Homeowners

can save



10 percent on their water bills



epa.gov/watersense

NATIONAL HYDRATION DAY | JUNE 23

Even normal activities can get intense under the hot summer sun. On June 23rd, National Hydration Day reminds us to replace fluids, especially those lost during physical outdoor exertion.

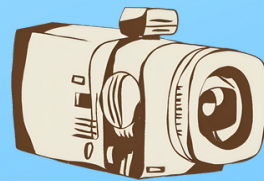
The human body contains more than 60 percent water. Maintaining that balance while training is a challenge. And doing it during the summer months is a practice that must be consistent. Becoming overheated or dehydrated can lead to heat stroke and possibly death.

Being hydrated before a workout begins can help prevent dehydration. This essential step goes a long way toward a more effective workout. If you are under-hydrated before you start, maintaining or catching up on hydration becomes difficult once the sweating starts. Drink plenty of fluids throughout the training, too. Fluids can include sports drinks that contain electrolytes (Magnesium, Calcium, Sodium, and Potassium) to replenish the essential minerals the body loses through perspiration.

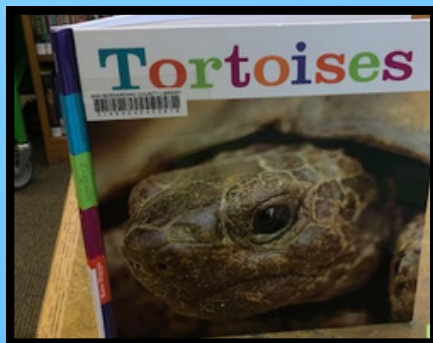


HELP YOURSELF HELP YOUR NEIGHBOR

DID YOU MISS IT? CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO AND PLAN TO ATTEND NEXT TIME!

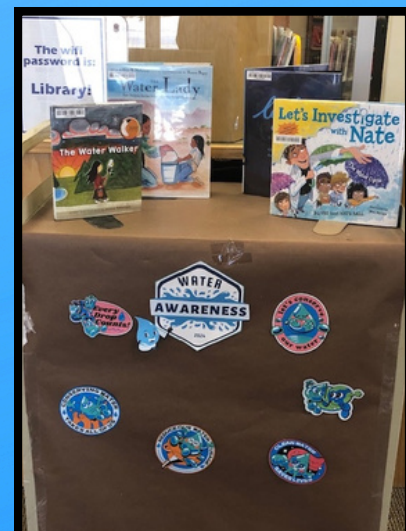
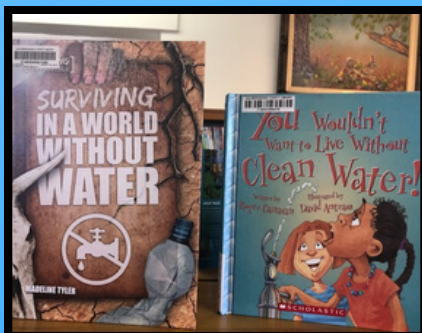


READYTOGETHERFAIR.ORG



JT LIBRARY STORY HOUR: Desert Tortoises and Water Conservation

JBWD's Public Outreach Consultant, Kathleen Radnich, brought to life a lesson on water conservation via reading about tortoises while sharing real-life baby tortoises with young, eager minds & parents.





Serious Wildcrafters Welcome!

**Thursday, August 22, 2024
6PM (sharp) to 7PM+**

at

**Joshua Basin Water District's
Water Wise Demonstration Garden**

61750 Chollita Rd, Joshua Tree

**NATIVE PLANT
SEED SWAP SOCIAL**

WITH GUEST SPEAKERS!

PLEASE BRING:

- ✿ Native plant seeds to swap
- ✿ Your own seed envelopes
- ✿ A folding chair

Please I.D. your seeds as in photo