



Town of Mamaroneck

Office of the Supervisor

Town Center

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NANCY SELIGSON
Supervisor

August 23, 2016

Dear Resident:

Recently, some area residents received correspondence from Westchester Joint Water Works (WJWW) regarding backflow preventers for home irrigation systems. The information generated a number of questions from residents, so this letter is intended to clarify the issue and explain why backflow prevention is so important for the continued safety of our drinking water.

The problem of backflow is real and can result in the contamination of the drinking water system. Backflow is caused by backsiphonage when pressure in the water main drops creating a vacuum that can cause contamination to flow back into the public water supply. Backsiphonage can happen in any public water supply system as the result of water main breaks, hydrant flushing or firefighting.

Since 1994 the New York State Health Code has required the installation of backflow preventers. Enforcement has become more vigorous due to the dramatic increase in the number of home irrigation systems and expanded use of lawn treatment and fertilization chemicals.

Several incidents have occurred in our water system where compressed air was used to blow-out irrigation systems at the end of the season (where no backflow preventer was in place) resulting in damage to plumbing fixtures in adjacent homes.

If you have an irrigation system or swimming pool, you must have an approved and testable backflow preventer. Please contact Vincent Salanitro at WJWW, (914) 698-3500 ext. 639, who can provide information on backflow prevention and how to file an application with WJWW. The \$250 application fee will be waived if you file before June 30, 2017.

Please act upon this promptly so we may continue to enjoy safe clean water.

Sincerely,

Nancy Seligson
Town Supervisor

