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## **Water-Saving Advice and Assistance from Neighbors InDeed**

BY BARRY MACKINTOSH

This August the City of Lincoln issued a Stage Two Water Alert with mandatory watering restrictions for all residents. The key points:

- Water no more than three days per week: Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday for odd-numbered addresses; Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday for even-numbered addresses.
- Water only between 10 PM and 5 AM to minimize evaporation.
- Don't waste water by allowing substantial runoff or failing to repair breaks or leaks within 12 hours. Call the Water Conservation Hotline at 434-2455 to report addresses or locations of water being wasted.

Since the alert was issued, many of you have called Neighbors InDeed for our Handy Helpers to reprogram irrigation controllers for the prescribed days and hours and adjust sprinklers to focus water where it's needed. As we do this, we recommend the following:

- To minimize possible lawn fungus from nighttime watering, water in the morning hours before 5 AM rather than after 10 PM.
- To minimize runoff from sloping front lawns, rather than watering the recommended 12-14 minutes all at once, water six or seven minutes twice with an hour between. Drip lines can be run during the interval. Steeper lawns may require dividing the total time into thirds.

As we all know, irrigation systems are not trouble-free. Sprinkler heads loosen and turn or pop off, drip line emitters and sprayers become detached or defective, and failed solenoids keep valves from opening. With nighttime irrigation, such malfunctions are not readily visible, wasting water and harming lawns and plants.

So we also recommend that every week or so, you run each station manually in the daytime just long enough to see that nothing is amiss.

As mentioned, Handy Helpers stand ready to assist with irrigation programming and adjustments, and we can show you how to run those periodic checks. We'll also do minor system repairs. Just leave a message with Neighbors InDeed at 223-2763, and we'll get back to you promptly and arrange a visit. There's no charge for anything we do, although we gratefully accept donations to defray our expenses.