



# WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

## Water Conservation

## Embrace The Future. Conserve Now.



Fresh, potable water is Earth's most valuable resource, and despite the close proximity of salt water to our subterranean aquifer, the Port Washington Water District has kept our supply pure and plentiful.

While we take great pride in delivering high-quality water, computer models predict that if we keep pumping at the current rate, two PWWD wells may become at risk for saltwater intrusion and would be forced to shut down. Reducing the 'gallons-per-person' used today will help protect our potable water supply in the future.

The Port Washington Water District encourages citizens to take an active and positive role in protecting their community's groundwater supply, especially in the spring and summer seasons, when irrigation causes pumpage to more than double.

### Here are tips to help reduce your water usage. Beneficial Conservation Measures:

- Don't overwater. Limit watering of lawns, shrubs and vegetation to two hours a day on alternate days.
- Nassau County Ordinance prohibits lawn watering between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. when a large portion of water would be lost to evaporation.
- Observe legal watering days: Odd-numbered homes water on odd-numbered days, even-numbered homes water on even-numbered days.
- Install spring-loaded shutoff nozzles on each garden hose to avoid wasting water.
- Check underground sprinklers, pools and spas and repair any leaks immediately.
- Promote growth and use less water with irrigation furrows alongside plants and flowers.

### Setting Water Conservation Goals. Don't Take Water For Granted.

#### Challenge...

#### Can you use 5,000 gallons less this year?

- Save 750 – 1500 gallons a month (see 'Beneficial Conservation Measures' to the right)
- Shorten your showers: A one or two minute reduction can save 700 gallons per month!
- Fix leaky faucets: Saves 20 gallons per day for each leak stopped!

PWWD has promoted water conservation for decades and has held public educational events to spread the message. Neighboring Long Island municipalities and local governments, such as the Town of North Hempstead, have also adopted water conservation programs and provide great examples for all of us to embrace.

PWWD Water Commissioner David Brackett remarked, "Keeping our water supply abundant and pure is our mission, and we need the support of the whole community to ensure its success."



## Superintendent's Message

On behalf of Port Washington Water District, welcome to our annual Spring Newsletter. I am confident that the majority of our consumers will agree that this was one of the most abrasive winters in recent history. Spring has certainly sprung, and we are welcoming the change in season with open arms.

As we enter our peak water-pumping season, we remind all consumers about the importance of water conservation and ask residents and businesses to avoid overuse. For instance, did you know that most lawns only need 1 to 2 inches of water per week to stay green and vibrant? Overwatering doesn't mean that your grass will grow faster or stronger, and if you overwater, it can potentially cause disease and fungus which could kill your lawn.



Daily residential water use is approximately 160 gallons per person. During the summer, this skyrockets to over 200 gallons per person...per day!

There are a number of ways you can conserve water and save money on your water bill. Visit our website's conservation landing page at: [www.pwwd.org/conservation](http://www.pwwd.org/conservation) for some helpful tips.

- *Italo J. Vacchio*  
*Superintendent*

Wishing you all a wonderful summer season and as always, please be mindful of water conservation and Nassau County Watering Ordinances:  
[www.pwwd.org/conservation](http://www.pwwd.org/conservation)

- *Italo J. Vacchio*  
*Superintendent*

## Protecting Our Water

### Award-Winning Design. Project Of The Year.

With super-efficient technology inside and attractive exterior architecture, Well 6 predictably drew attention within the water industry. The project was submitted to the American Water Works Association (AWWA) annual awards competition by D&B Engineers and Architects, P.C., (Woodbury, NY). The initiative won the New York Section's "Project of the Year", an honor that PWWD is proud to acknowledge.



(Left to Right): Port Washington Water District Commissioners Peter Meyer, David Brackett and Mindy Germain.

### New Packed Tower Aeration System. Applying Technology and Architectural Ingenuity.

Bar Beach Well 6 is an anomaly. It is easily mistaken for a beautiful home nestled on a tree-lined residential street, but in reality, it's an ultramodern water treatment facility, housed in award-winning architectural design.

#### The Technology Inside.

When Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) were detected in 2011, PWWD immediately took Well 6 offline. With delivering extremely high-quality water as the objective, a new Packed Tower Aeration System was installed to remove contaminants as the water passes through the filtering process. Well 6 has the latest water engineering filtering and pumping equipment, and the new plant has a production capacity of 500 gallons per minute (GPM).

The design also includes the latest safety interlocks, which means the well cannot operate without first confirming that the treatment process is fully operational. This guarantees that only pure drinking water is delivered into the distribution system.

Further, special considerations also included sound attenuating features, contemporary architectural design and coordinated landscaping to guarantee minimal impact on the community.



## Help The Environment!

What We Put On Our Lawns Ends Up In Our Groundwater.

Plush green lawns are the pride of the suburbs, but nitrates used in lawn fertilizers will end up in our water supply. They're harmful, and their use has increased five-fold since the 1950s! The District has built filtration systems to remove nitrates from our water, but by moderating your fertilization or applying low nitrate fertilizers, you can help reduce nitrate impact.

### Helpful Tips To Protect Our Environment:

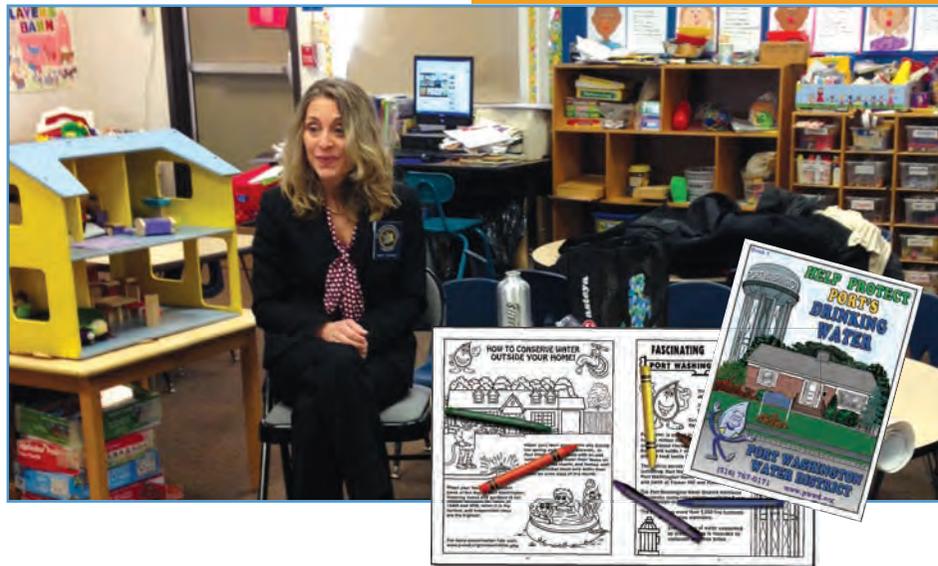
- Avoid using pesticides on your lawn.
- Research natural and organic lawn products to help grow vibrant lawns and landscapes.
- Work with your landscapers and nurseries to formulate a non-chemical plan to treat your lawn through the spring and fall.

## Celebrating 100 Years

## PWWD Recognized By The Long Island Water Conference (LIWC).



(Left to Right): Port Washington Water District Commissioners Peter Meyer, David Brackett and Mindy Germain (Far Right), are presented with a commemorative plaque from Michael Levy, LIWC president, recognizing PWWD's 100 years of dedicated service and commitment to the community.



## Instilling Environmental Connection During Early Development.

The 2013 campaign to educate Port Washington students about where their drinking water comes from and how they can protect it, was extremely well received. That's why PWWD has expanded its commitment and brought this vital learning experience to Pre-K District students.

Recently, PWWD visited the Universal Pre-K Program at John J. Daly School on Rockwood Avenue. The presentation included live classroom demonstrations and was moderated by PWWD Commissioner Mindy Germain (pictured above).

"One of our pledges is to educate next generation consumers about water appreciation, conservation, sustainability and infrastructure," Commissioner Germain commented. "Through this program we've introduced our *Help Protect Port's Drinking Water* activity and educational book series. Our youngest citizens are having fun while learning the importance of water conservation."

### Meaningful Topics Covered In Pre-K To Grade 2 Include:

- Why Is Water Important?
- Why We Need Water To Live?
- The Difference Between Salt Water And Fresh Water
- What People Can Do At Home To Conserve And Protect Our Water

### Additional Topics Covered In Grades 3 To 5 Include:

- The Water Cycle
- Long Island's Aquifer
- Port Washington's Water Supply System

"Instilling an understanding of water as a resource and an appreciation of what it takes to ensure its purity and supply is invaluable," Commissioner Germain remarked. "Starting at the Pre-K level fosters early connection and instills a life-long commitment to water conservation and protection."

### Schedule An Educational Visit From The PWWD:

Port Washington Water District invites local educators to schedule a classroom visit by calling (516) 767-0171. PWWD also extends this invitation to all interested organizations in the community.



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## Port Washington Water District

38 Sandy Hollow Road  
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www.pwwd.org

### Commissioners:

David R. Brackett, Chairman  
Peter Meyer, Secretary  
Mindy Germain, Treasurer

### Superintendent:

Italo J. Vacchio

### Board Meetings:

Every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. except the second Tuesday of each month when the Board meets at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are at the District Office unless otherwise announced.

### Business Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays

## 24-Hour Emergency Number:

(516) 767-0171

### Member:

American Water Works Association  
Long Island Water Conference

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### PRE-SORT

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se puede encontrar en: [www.pwwd.org/news\\_newsletters](http://www.pwwd.org/news_newsletters).*

## Backflow. Don't Ignore The Law.

Backflow. It sounds innocent enough but backflow can sicken your family and neighbors. It can negatively impact the environment. In fact, it could contaminate the entire water supply within your home. That's why New York State has made it against the law to allow a backflow situation to persist.

### What Is A Backflow Device And How Does It Work?

Backflow situations can occur when street pressure drops and flow reverses. This forces water back into the main water supply along with any contaminants or minerals. Backflow double-check valve assemblies prevent water from reversing direction, thereby safeguarding against potential contamination of the public water supply.

"Backflow is a serious issue," PWWD Commissioner Peter Meyer stated. "We encourage our consumers to visit our website for more information and schedule a certified backflow test of their device. It's important that our consumers know that it is the District's responsibility to enforce the law."

### Compliance And Enforcement. Avoid The Fine.

Non-compliance is unlawful. In fact, if a consumer does not file for a permit or does not perform an annual backflow inspection, it will lead to a \$300 fine. Non-compliance is a blatant disregard for the environment, and we urge our consumers to ignore unscrupulous contractors if they suggest otherwise.

As stewards of the environment, PWWD has been charged with the responsibility to enforce the law that New York State has enacted. For the good of your families and ours...for the benefit of the entire Port Washington community...we will do our duty.

Nassau County Department of Health regulations require the property owner to apply for a permit prior to installing a new irrigation system or modifying an existing system. The regulations also require the installation of a backflow prevention device as part of the system. After the plans are approved, the system can be installed. The final step in the process is the inspection of the installed system by the PWWD. **After the new system has been inspected and approved, annual testing by a certified backflow tester is mandatory.**

Visit [www.pwwd.org](http://www.pwwd.org) for more information regarding backflow.

