



# WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

## REOPEN JAMAICA WELLS? GET THE FACTS FIRST. NYC Proposes to Pump 33 Million Gallons A Day.

### Protecting Our Water

As dedicated stewards of our most precious resource, Port Washington Water District is justifiably concerned about the environmental impact of the proposed reopening of the 23 long-closed Jamaica wells, 4 of which tap into the deepest, most protected Lloyd Aquifer. The proposed withdrawal of water from the aquifer could have far-reaching present and future environmental impacts.

PWWD has helped to lead the charge along with a host of other municipalities and

organizations in demanding the scientific data to prove with certainty that opening up these wells is safe for Port Washington.

There are over 20 parties involved in this initiative, including Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth, as well as representatives from state, county and local governments, neighboring water districts and environmental protection organizations.

"We need to protect ourselves from unhealthy shifts in the

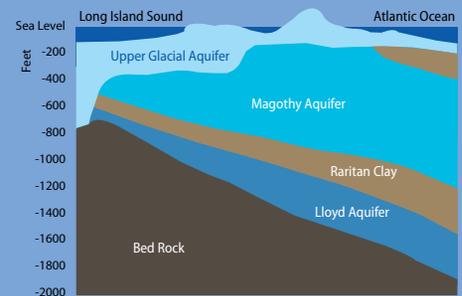
water table, salt water intrusion and redirection of significant plumes of hazardous pollutants," Water Commissioner David R. Brackett commented. "A projection of this type is possible only with state-of-the-art hydraulic modeling."

PWWD takes the position that USGS, an independent and scientifically objective third party federal agency, conduct the study. Commissioner Brackett continued, "Until the proposed USGS study is completed, the permits to reactivate the long-closed wells should not be reissued. The sustainability of our entire area is potentially at risk, and we cannot afford to proceed without the very latest scientific data from an impartial authority."

< PWWD Commissioner Mindy Germain (fourth from the left) attends a recent meeting with other leaders involved in this initiative.



### NYC PLANS TO REACTIVATE QUEENS WELLS.



If you haven't heard, New York City needs to repair an aqueduct that brings water from an upstate watershed. This will require shutting down the aqueduct for a period of time. To compensate, NYC is seeking to reopen long-closed wells to pump some 33 million gallons of drinking water from Long Island's sole source aquifer... daily. Several of these wells draw from the deeper Lloyd aquifer.



## Superintendent's Message

On behalf of the Port Washington Water District, welcome to our 2015 Spring/Summer Newsletter.

We can't welcome the new season without thanking the PWWD staff and crew who helped us get through a particularly harsh winter. PWWD takes great pride in its mission to ensure an uninterrupted supply of water at all times. Weather does not interfere with our operations. Our team was called upon day and night and responded immediately to all water main breaks, frozen meters and frozen pipes. Hats off to the crew and all of their efforts in the field!

As spring begins, and with it all of the plans that we have for our homes and gardens, we remind PWWD consumers that water conservation and water usage laws are essential to protect our future water supply. In addition, we urge making small changes in maintaining your landscape to reduce the amount of water used. This publication provides some helpful hints that can be put in place to conserve water and to lower your water bill. Enjoy the warmer days ahead!

– 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)

## DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR DRINKING WATER COMES FROM?

Residents of Port Washington Water District enjoy superior quality water as well as a plentiful supply. Highly regulated and meticulously managed, PWWD draws drinking water from one source, a system of aquifers beneath the surface of Long Island.

### OUR WATER UNDERGROUND.

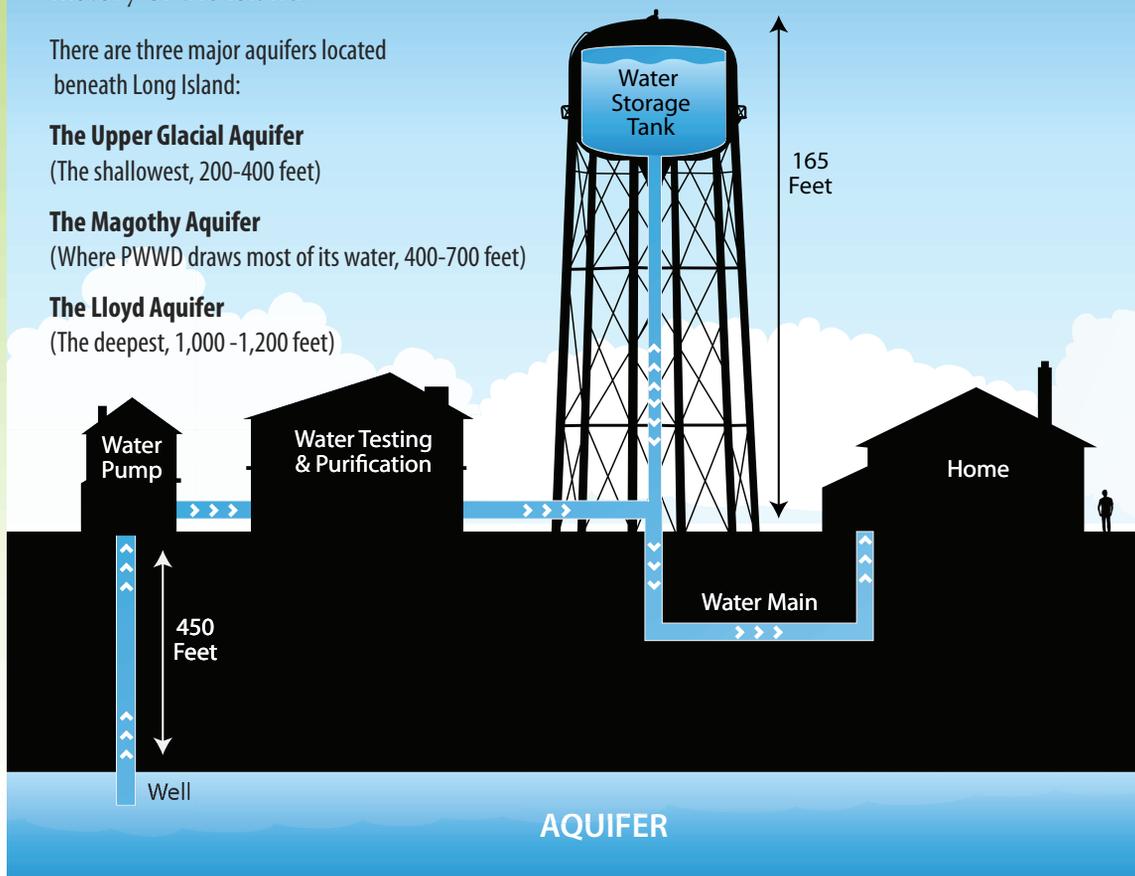
Port Washington's drinking water comes from Long Island's sole source aquifer, an underground geologic formation made of rock and/or gravel, sand, pebbles or silt. Aquifers contain, transmit and yield water in usable quantities. The aquifer formations beneath Long Island were deposited at different times in the geologic history of the island.

There are three major aquifers located beneath Long Island:

**The Upper Glacial Aquifer**  
(The shallowest, 200-400 feet)

**The Magothy Aquifer**  
(Where PWWD draws most of its water, 400-700 feet)

**The Lloyd Aquifer**  
(The deepest, 1,000 -1,200 feet)



## Commissioner News

### PETER MEYER RE-ELECTED AS WATER COMMISSIONER.

Congratulations to Peter Meyer for his re-election as Water Commissioner. The annual election of a PWWD Water Commissioner is for a 3-year term.

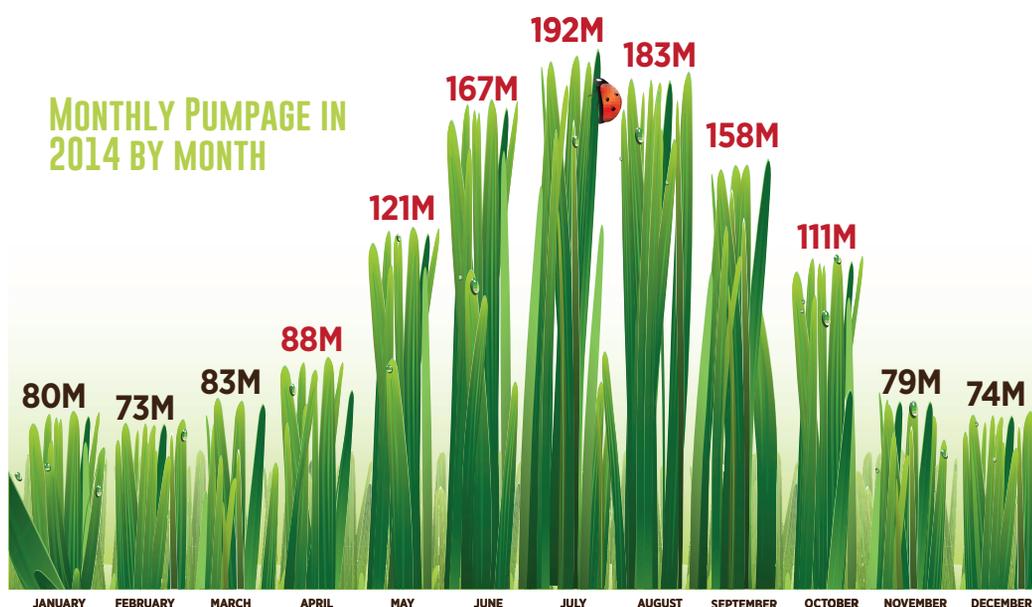
Commissioner Meyer's new term began on January 1, 2015. He has proudly served the District as Commissioner for the past 15 years.



# CONSERVING WATER DOESN'T JUST FEEL GOOD...IT'S THE LAW.

## WHY CONSERVE?

Close to 30,000 consumers rely on Port Washington Water District for a pure, plentiful supply of potable water, day in and day out. Water conservation remains the most intelligent way of guaranteeing sustainability. It is PWWD's responsibility to protect our water source and to uphold the laws put in place. We encourage Port Washington consumers to take an active part in water conservation.



## WHY THESE LAWS WERE INSTITUTED.

PWWD manages and operates 12 wells, and our annual pumpage is approximately 1.3 billion gallons. Water usage jumps tremendously as the heat rises...not for drinking but largely for watering lawns! In 2014, we pumped approximately 74 million gallons of water in the month of February. That number more than doubled when we pumped approximately 192 million gallons of water in the month of July!

We ask Port Washington consumers to be judicious in their usage. Water for irrigation is limited to a maximum of two hours a day on alternate days determined by your street address: even-numbered homes water on even-numbered days, odd-numbered homes water on odd-numbered days. Flushing and/or spraying public streets, sidewalks or private driveways for any purpose is prohibited. In addition, Nassau County Ordinance prohibits lawn watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

By implementing a conservation program at your home or business, you can play a part in reducing our annual pumpage.

## IRRIGATE YOUR LANDSCAPE INTELLIGENTLY:

-  NEVER OVERWATER
-  HIRE CERTIFIED IRRIGATION PROFESSIONALS
-  INSPECT SPRINKLER SYSTEMS REGULARLY
-  MATCH IRRIGATION TO THE SEASON

## INCREASED CONSERVATION WILL:

-  REDUCE TOTAL USAGE OF WATER
-  SAVE YOU MONEY
-  REDUCE STRESS ON OUR AQUIFER
-  LESSEN THE RISK OF SALT WATER INTRUSION
-  MINIMIZE THE TOLL PUT ON OUR INFRASTRUCTURE
-  ENSURE THE SUSTAINABILITY OF OUR WATER SUPPLY

FOR MORE CONSERVATION TIPS, VISIT [WWW.PWWD.ORG/CONSERVATION](http://WWW.PWWD.ORG/CONSERVATION)



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Peter Meyer, Secretary  
Mindy Germain, Treasurer

Superintendent:  
Italo J. Vacchio

Board Meetings:  
Every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. All meetings are held 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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## Water District Ordinances

### **BACKFLOW. DON'T IGNORE THE NASSAU COUNTY AND NYS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH!**

A vital part of PWWD's mission is to ensure public health and safety at all times by providing an uninterrupted supply of water to all consumers and to protect our irreplaceable resource from all potential sources of contamination.

Backflow can sicken your family and the neighbors around you. It can negatively impact the environment, and it could contaminate the entire water supply. 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 from your home or business back into the main water supply along with any contaminants or minerals.

Backflow double-check valve assemblies (DCVA) prevent

water from reversing direction, thereby safeguarding against potential contamination of the public water supply to your home and the homes around you.



Water Commissioner  
David R. Brackett

"Backflow is a serious issue," PWWD Water Commissioner David R. Brackett stated. "We encourage our consumers to visit our website for more information and to follow the proper procedures to 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 for the installation of a backflow preventor, it could lead to a possible fine. Non-compliance is a blatant disregard for the environment. We urge our consumers to educate themselves about backflow and to use contractors who are familiar with the law. For the good of your families and ours...for the benefit of the entire Port Washington community...we will do our duty to uphold this law.

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