



► Fall 2013

# WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

## Proudly Serving Our Community For A Full Century

**C**elebrating 100 years of reliable stewardship to the community, the Port Washington Water District (PWWD) is one of Long Island's oldest public water districts. We proudly serve the communities of Port Washington, Port Washington North, Manorhaven, Flower Hill, Baxter Estates and Plandome Manor.

### IN THE BEGINNING...

As hard as it is to believe, in the late 1800s Port Washington was a suburban hamlet with a reported population of 8,134. During the Gilded Age around the turn of the 20th century, great fortunes were made in steel, oil, transportation and other industries. Lavish mansions sprung up like mushrooms on what became known as Long Island's Gold Coast, a precursor to the Hamptons of today. Our very own community became a favorite summer retreat for the rich and famous and attracted visitors from all over the world.

The PWWD was established in 1913 to meet this population expansion and remained a small utility serving the steadily growing community. Masses of people continued to migrate to the county, and Port Washington's population, like so much of suburbia, soared in the 1940s and 1950s. With this influx, the demand for clean, quality water multiplied, and the Water District expanded. Throughout this historic population shift, the PWWD met the challenge head on by increasing capacity, establishing new infrastructure and embracing modern methods and technologies.

### TECHNOLOGY AND A NEW AGE

In the late 1960s, a major advancement in the PWWD water supply system occurred when the District drilled two wells at Christopher Morley Park. Setting up stations off the peninsula helped ensure that the community's drinking water supply would not be affected by saltwater intrusion. This change now accounts for approximately two thirds of the District's water supply.

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All historic photos courtesy of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society (www.cowneck.org)

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La versión española de este boletín se puede encontrar en: [www.pwwd.org/news\\_newsletters](http://www.pwwd.org/news_newsletters).





Bar Beach Well 6



Hewlett Well 4

## Capital Improvement Update: 2013

As part of our ongoing commitment to our consumers, it's important that we continually upgrade and update our well stations and improve infrastructure. We're happy to report that the District recently completed construction on two sites: Bar Beach Well 6 and Hewlett Well 4. Both projects are part of the District's 2011 capital improvement plan, and the wells are now operating online at 100% efficiency.

### BAR BEACH WELL 6

A new Packed Tower Aeration System has been constructed at the Bar Beach Well 6 site for the removal of Volatile Organic Contaminants (VOCs) detected in the raw water. To remediate the issue, the District took the well offline in 2011, thereby designating the completion of this project as high priority. Built from the ground up, the plan included a full architectural residential design of the building and landscaping features to help the new facility blend into the community.

The water pumped from this well meets all Nassau County, New York State and Federal requirements. In fact, our water has passed all tests with flying colors.

### HEWLETT WELL 4

Another high priority capital improvement project was the Nitrate Treatment Plant at Hewlett Well 4. In 2010, the monitoring systems detected low yet increasing concentrations of nitrates in the water at this plant site, although the concentrations were still below the levels and standards allowed by the New York State Department of Health. The new treatment system allows water to be drawn from the aquifer, go into

the nitrate treatment vessels and through a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filter, which removes all VOCs. This entire process is monitored from the PWWD headquarters.

### BEACON HILL TANK PROPERTY AT LONGVIEW ROAD

The District recently purchased a piece of property in front of the Beacon Hill tank to gain direct access to the facility. "Prior to our securing ownership of this property, we had to coordinate with the Village of Sands Point Water Department (which neighbors the tower), to enter the tank," said Water Commissioner Peter Meyer. "For security reasons, the best option for all parties was to create a clear path to the front of the tank." With the assistance of a landscape architect, the grounds were beautified with plants, trees, shrubs and flowers. Today, the property has an aesthetic appeal that matches the local community landscape.



## Celebrating Port Washington Water District Commissioners

Since 1914 there have been 23 Water Commissioners sworn in to proudly serve the District.

Cornelius Gallagher	1914	Hugh J. Malone	1937-1939	Betty Forquer	1982-1999
Arthur W. Keevil	1914-1947	Joseph Rezek	1959-1961	Harold Champol	1986-1991
Edward J. West	1914-1958	Robert MacCallum	1962-1971	Thomas J. Murray, Jr.	1990-2011
J. Henry Decker	1915-1933	Edward Pickett	1966-1974	Ellen Markowski	2000
Verlyn A. Trussel	1934-1941	Orlando Scaramucci	1971-1981	David Brackett	1992-Present
William Easton	1942-1949	James J. Connern	1972-1983	Peter Meyer	2000-Present
James S. Strockbine	1948-1970	John J. Caputo	1975-1977	Mindy Germain	2012-Present
Edward F. Musselwhite	1930-1936, 1960-1963	John A. Caputo	1978-1989		



# Proudly Serving Our Community For A Full Century

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Thanks to advancements in technology, District operations are performed electronically, including the monitoring of all well sites through SCADA (Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition). Technology has also created greater efficiencies in service. Today, less manpower is needed to keep the District operating smoothly without any interruptions of service.

## ONGOING VIGILANCE & INCREASING PRODUCTION

During the past 100 years, the District has supported a policy of constant improvement by upgrading infrastructure and modernizing both monitoring and security. Today, we serve 5-6 times the population of the early 20th century, with approximately 10,000 accounts and 45,000 to 50,000 people.

In 2012, the District pumped 1.3 billion gallons of water through 120 miles of water mains! The District operates, manages and supervises 12 pumping wells and services 1,200 fire hydrants. All of this is accomplished with a staff of only 16 full-time employees.

## WORKING WITH OUR UTILITY AND CIVIC PARTNERS

The District collaborates closely with the Port Washington Fire Department to provide adequate water flow to all hydrants. We also maintain a close working relationship with the Water Pollution Control District (Sewer District) and maintain long-standing synergistic relationships with local civic groups such as the



Residents For A More Beautiful Port Washington. In addition, the District also belongs to a number of regional and national associations to keep up on current techniques and improvements.

These associations are the Greater Port Washington Peninsula Aquifer Committee, the American Water Works Association (AWWA), Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners Association (NSWCA) and Long Island Water Conference (LIWC).

"At PWWD, we believe conservation begins with education," stated Commissioner Mindy Germain. "People are surprised to learn that while about 70% of the Earth is covered in water, less than 1% is safe to drink. That is why we invest so much in education. Each year we visit local community groups, schools, scouts, neighborhood associations and parent groups with interactive models and educational materials that demonstrate the profound effect conservation will have on safeguarding Port's drinking water, not just for the present, but for the next 100 years."

PWWD Commissioner David Brackett proudly commented on the District's achievement and how important it is to ensure the safety of Earth's most precious resource. The 51-year resident of Port Washington commented, "We are honored to be celebrating the District's anniversary marking 100 years of dedicated service to the community. We will continue to honor and fulfill our mission to each and every consumer, which is to produce and maintain the same great quality water and customer service for our community and to protect it for future generations."

## The PWWD Commitment To Our Consumers

### The 10 Essential Considerations of our Mission

**1. We pledge...**to ensure public health and safety at all times by striving to provide an uninterrupted supply of quality water and by maintaining adequate storage reserves for all purposes, including fire protection.

**2. We will be ever vigilant...**in monitoring and protecting our precious supply from all potential sources of contamination, including saltwater intrusion in our sole source aquifer.

**3. We are dedicated to...**and will continue to strive towards a best practices program of water conservation for the needs of today and for future generations.

**4. We are fully committed...**and actively champion the sustainability of our fresh water supply and the management of resources and infrastructure to protect our community's future.

**5. We enlist...**the cooperation and assistance of the public to recognize, appreciate and follow our conservation recommendations to reduce system vulnerability and to increase sustainability.

**6. We strongly support...**ongoing communication and dissemination of information to all of our consumers.

**7. We will collaborate...**with all federal, state, county and town authorities, as well as regulatory agencies and health authorities, to best address issues of drinking water quality.

**8. We will cooperate...**with our neighboring water districts to study drinking water sustainability and to promote the development of a unified approach utilizing expert engineering and scientific resources.

**9. We request...**the assistance of all residents of the Port Washington Water District, as well as those concerned citizens in our region and beyond, to protect this valuable resource for current and future generations.

**10. We will educate...**all members of our community with information about conservation, infrastructure and the sustainability of our precious water resources.

**Our commitment is unwavering...**and the Commissioners, Superintendent and staff of the Port Washington Water District pledge to fulfill our mission with extreme diligence, superior service and the most efficient, economical and environmentally sound practices.





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## Port Washington Water District

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### 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  
Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners Association

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## KEEP A CLEAR PATH TO FIRE HYDRANTS THIS WINTER

Mother Nature seems to have been on the warpath in the last few years, especially with the major Superstorm of 2012. Being prepared for bad winter weather is a priority at the District. An accumulation of snow and ice can bury fire hydrants, thus slowing firefighters and emergency personnel or preventing them from seeing the hydrants.

In the interest of public safety, please help keep fire hydrants clear of snow or any other debris. Every second during a fire is precious, so if you see one of our 1,200 hydrants covered, we ask that you pitch in and do your part to clear a path, or report it to the PWWD.



### TIPS...Winterizing Conservation Solutions For Your Home

- If water pipes are located in an unheated area of your house, cover the pipes with insulation to prevent freezing.
- Disconnect all outdoor hoses, turn off the water leading outdoors and open each outdoor faucet.
- Winterize irrigation systems by turning off and draining them.
- Know where your shut-off valve is located in case of emergency.
- Always remember to check or listen for leaks, especially during the cold winter months. If a frozen pipe bursts, it can cause serious property damage.

For additional conservation tips, visit our website at [www.pwwd.org/conservation](http://www.pwwd.org/conservation)