



WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

Water Conservation & Sustainability

Tips for Saving Water Outdoors

The amount of water homeowners use to keep their lawns green or gardens lush rises in the summer — two to four times more than they use the rest of the year! Water Commissioner Peter Meyer advises that according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), there are simple ways to promote a healthier lawn and garden with less water this summer.

- **Spring it Back:** Grass doesn't always need water just because it's hot. Step on the lawn, and if the grass springs back, it doesn't need water.
- **Keep It Long:** Raise your lawn mower blade. Longer grass promotes deeper root growth, resulting in a more drought-resistant lawn, reduced evaporation and fewer weeds.
- **Give Your Hose a Break:** Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off. Also, don't forget to check for leaks at your spigot connection and tighten as necessary.
- **Water Wisely:** The use of an EPA WaterSense-labeled automatic irrigation controller can potentially save thousands of gallons per season, conserving our vital drinking water resource and lowering your water bill!

Be SMART and GREEN, SAVE 15

The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) is setting the benchmark for water conservation with its progressive and proactive *Be Smart and Green, Save 15* campaign. Joined by local government officials, the District laid out plans last summer to reduce District-wide water consumption by 15 percent during the irrigation season.

The campaign reflects estimates by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) that pumpage amounts may be surpassing Nassau County's permissible yields by 15 percent. "The *Be Smart and Green, Save 15* water conservation campaign is vital to the sustainability of our sole source aquifer," said David Brackett, Chairman of PWWD's Board of Commissioners. "As we head into the peak part of the summer in terms of water consumption per resident, we implore the community to come together, to join this ever-important effort and to implement some simple yet effective conservation tactics to conserve our most precious natural resource."

The campaign has been designed to educate residents and to provide helpful

suggestions to effortlessly reduce their water consumption. "If we continue pumping at current levels, we will be jeopardizing the future sustainability of the peninsula's water supply by introducing the irreversible effects of saltwater intrusion," said PWWD Commissioner Mindy

"The 'Be Smart and Green, Save 15' water conservation campaign is vital to the sustainability of our sole source aquifer"

Germain. "The United States Geological Survey (USGS) is undertaking a study that will give us an exact picture of our pumpage yields and will allow us to fully understand what level of pumping will keep our supply sustainable. Until this study is complete, we ask that all residents strictly adhere to Nassau County's ordinance of the odd-even watering schedule as this will have a positive impact and contribute to our conservation goals in a very significant way."

Aside from educating residents, the District has expanded its water conservation program by implementing a distribution leak-detection program that has already identified 17 locations where water is being wasted. By fixing these leaks alone, the District anticipates achieving a water savings of more than 113,000 gallons per day!

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Beacon Hill Tank Update

As residents may be aware from previous community meetings and communications, PWWD will be replacing the Beacon Hill water tower in 2017. The current water tower has reached the end of its useful life, and a full tank replacement has been determined to be the best and most cost-effective option for the community. The tank replacement project will safeguard the continued health, safety and sustainability of the District's water supply and distribution.

Bids for the project were solicited in January and after a thorough review of the bidder's qualifications and experience, the project has been awarded to Caldwell Tanks, Inc. The tank contractor has been constructing portable water storage tanks in the United States since 1887. Their most recent and successfully completed project was for Manhasset-Lakeville Water District.

Chairman of the PWWD's Board of Commissioners David Bracket explained that

water tanks designed today are more resilient, easier to maintain and better equipped to optimize water pressure during times of peak demand and fire emergencies. "Replacing the tank now with one that meets today's stringent safety and structural standards will guarantee this vital component of our water supply infrastructure is in sound condition for decades to come."

This summer PWWD will hold an additional community briefing meeting to review the detailed work schedule and construction mitigation measures. Physical construction work at the site will begin in late August. For additional updates on the Beacon Hill water tower project, visit www.pwwd.org/currentprojects.



Current Water Tank at Beacon Hill.



Rendering of new, proposed Water Tank.

Protecting Our Water

PWWD STAYS ON TOP OF 1,4-DIOXANE CONCERNS

Port Washington Water District has always taken a proactive approach to testing and reporting on potential emerging contaminants, specifically with 1,4-dioxane. Initial testing was conducted during 2014, and the District volunteered to conduct a repeat sampling in 2016. Resampling and testing will continue to take place in the coming months.

Recent media coverage on the detection of 1,4-dioxane in various Long Island drinking water wells has heightened public awareness of the issue. PWWD Superintendent Paul Granger, P.E. is the chair of the New York Section AWWA Water Utility Council and is currently working with other water health professionals to ensure that every precaution is being taken to protect our water supply. He has prepared the following overview and outline of 1,4-dioxane to further educate consumers.

What is 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-dioxane is a synthetic chemical used as a solvent and a chlorinated solvent stabilizer for industrial chemicals, predominantly 1,1,1-trichloroethane (TCA). It is used in a variety of applications such as inks and adhesives. This is an issue that reaches far beyond drinking water, and it applies to water supply systems because its presence is so pervasive in these everyday household products:

- Cosmetics
- Detergents
- Shampoos
- Deodorants
- Hair Care
- Sunscreen
- And More

What Levels of 1,4-Dioxane are Found in our Water?

There is currently no chemical-specific Federal or New York State drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane; however, it is regulated as an Unspecified Organic Contaminant by the New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) at a maximum contaminant level (standard) of 50 parts per billion (ppb). Our 1,4-dioxane point of entry test results ranged from below detection limits to 1.90 ppb with an average

of 0.75 ppb. These results are far lower than the New York State Health Department standard. Levels of 1,4-dioxane do not

appear to be increasing on Long Island. Generally, detections of the compound have been fairly stable, not trending upward.

The Federal Consumer Product Safety Commission continues to monitor for 1,4-dioxane in consumer products, and legislation has been proposed

to regulate and to restrict chemicals such as 1,4-dioxane.

Will the EPA be Setting a Standard for 1,4-Dioxane?

That is yet to be determined. The EPA regularly reviews drinking water standards as new science becomes available and is currently reviewing new 1,4-dioxane health effects information. Once the review is completed, the EPA will carefully review the conclusions and consider all relevant information to determine whether a drinking water standard for 1,4-dioxane is needed. The drinking water community is working with the EPA to review all relevant information on 1,4-dioxane including health effects, occurrence and treatment options. This work will help support the EPA in its decision-making process.

For more information, visit www.pwwd.org.



Superintendent's Message



Water suppliers have the vital responsibility to protect public health and safety. Proactive water sustainability measures have far reaching environmental, financial, emergency preparedness and operational

benefits for water suppliers and the communities they serve.

Efficient and sustainable use of potable water will reduce energy demand. This is because the deep well pumps utilized by the regional water purveyors to distribute water rely on a significant amount of electric power. High capacity electric pump motors, ranging in capacity from 60- to 200-horsepower, provide the primary power required to draw water from the aquifer and ultimately to the home. The wise use of our precious drinking water supply will lower electric demand on the Water District and on the power system.

Not only does the reduction in power demand improve electric system reliability, it also has far reaching environmental benefits. Less usage, particularly under peak conditions, allows water suppliers to better manage pumpage from its supply wells, thereby reducing stress on the local aquifer. This also ensures that an ample supply of water will be available during an emergency. In addition, lessening the stress that is placed on a local aquifer segment reduces the potential for drawing contaminants deeper into the groundwater system.

Proactive planning and implementation of sustainable measures to reduce water use will ensure that future generations will have a safe and adequate supply of drinking water.

I look forward to working with our community as we develop and implement sustainability measures to ensure our delivery of a reliable and sustainable drinking water supply now and well into the future.

— Superintendent Paul J. Granger, P.E.

Be SMART and GREEN, SAVE 15

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In addition, the District will consult with its top water users to improve their water efficiency by reviewing existing irrigation systems to reduce water waste.

Last summer the District pilot-tested EPA WaterSense smart irrigation controller technology at its administration building, which resulted in a significant reduction in

water use while maintaining a green lawn. "The District is doing everything it can with the resources at its disposal to identify and to target locations throughout the District where water is unnecessarily being wasted," said PWWD Commissioner Peter Meyer. "The use of state-of-the-art technology enabled us to save large sums of water. The District's smart irrigation controller pilot program at our headquarters, for example, has kept our lawn and plants green while saving more than 52,000 gallons of water since we conducted the pilot last summer."

To learn more about the PWWD's *Be Smart and Green, Save 15* water conservation campaign, please visit www.pwwd.org/conservation or www.facebook.com/pwwaterdistrict.



Supporting the water conservation campaign are: Former New York State Senator Jack Martins, Former Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Town of North Hempstead Supervisor Judi Bosworth, Town of North Hempstead Councilwoman Dina DeGiorgio, Village of Flower Hill Mayor Elaine Phillips, Village of Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson, Village of Manorhaven Trustee John Popeleski and Village of Port Washington North Representative Anna Fox along with other members of the team.

MINDY GERMAIN RE-ELECTED AS WATER COMMISSIONER



Congratulations to Mindy Germain on her re-election as a Water Commissioner of the Port Washington Water District. A 17-year resident, Commissioner Germain ran in 2012 because she believes clean, safe drinking water is essential to making Port Washington the best place to live and to raise a family. Commissioner Germain's ongoing focus is strategic investment in infrastructure, open dialogue with the community and coordination with other Long Island water suppliers to create greater efficiencies and long-term planning.

Commissioner News



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A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

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David R. Brackett, Chairman
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Mindy Germain, Treasurer

Superintendent:

Paul J. Granger, P.E.

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
Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association
Long Island Water Conference

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Community News

PWWD DEBUTS NEW WEBSITE

In a constant effort to better serve consumers with information and timely news, PWWD is proud to launch its new website at www.PWWD.org.

Now you easily can access the District's website by smartphone, tablet and desktop. The new site features an upgraded "News" section with the latest developments throughout the District, as well as a "Current Projects" page providing consumers with updates on construction and infrastructure. The website also will provide access to important fact sheets so consumers can receive the latest information on our water quality and other related topics.

Navigational features include information on "Conservation" and "Billing." The site will also provide information regarding ordinances, public notices and helpful resources.

Soon, consumers will be able to pay their bill online through an easy-to-access payment system. This new feature will be unveiled in late 2017.

The new, responsive website was designed and developed to provide a more streamlined, user-friendly experience for consumers. "It was important to the District that we stay up to date with emerging technologies and provide easy access to pertinent information and services. Our goal is to provide a valuable tool and reliable resource for all consumers," commented Commissioner Peter Meyer.

