



# HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT WATER~GRAM

## Inter-Municipal Cooperation Essential

In the event demand for public water exceeds a utility's pumpage and storage capacity, some situations can quickly become an emergency, as public water supplies must maintain the proper pressure for household use as well as fire protection at all times.

It is for this reason that the distribution systems of Long Island's water utilities have been designed to interconnect to each other. With the turn of a series of valves, one supplier can provide water to a neighboring utility in a relatively short period of time, thus preventing a situation, such as an active blaze, from becoming catastrophic.

"Although the underground aquifers we draw our drinking water from can hold more than 75 trillion gallons of water, they can become stressed during extended periods of high daily use and lack of precipitation," explained Hicksville Water Commissioner and Board Chairman Nicholas Brigandi. "Our pumping and treatment facilities can become overworked as well."

The Hicksville Water District is interconnected to neighboring public water suppliers at each of its borders including the Jericho, Plainview, Bethpage and Westbury Water Districts, as well as the Town of Hempstead. Upgrades to the Plainview, Bethpage and Westbury connections have previously been completed. Currently, improvements to the interconnections with both Jericho and the Town of Hempstead are underway.

"There is a long history of inter-municipal cooperation among

Long Island's water suppliers," Brigandi pointed out. "We share mutual concerns regarding environmental as well as legislative issues and have provided assistance to our neighbors during times of major infrastructure projects or unexpected emergency repairs.

Although each of us operates independent of the other and the water distribution systems are kept isolated and sealed, it is a comfort to know an interconnection is available and in good working order, in case it's needed."

### District Lends Helping Hand

When the Hicksville Water District learned that repairs were needed on three of the fire hydrants located at the nearby Nassau County Fire Service Academy, district officials jumped in to help find a solution. A repair crew was dispatched to get the equipment back in working order to enable members of the county's 71 volunteer fire departments to continue to hone their firefighting skills at the facility. Pictured from



left are water servicemen Bill Kelly, Ed Larkin, Chris Moskos and Jason Tare. Foreman John Caglione also participated in the effort.

"Most people are not aware that the water district is responsible for

maintaining more than 1,600 hydrants located throughout our 8-square-mile service area, so we have the expertise to repair the equipment," explained Hicksville Water Commissioner and firefighter Karl Schweitzer. "Since many of our employees are volunteer firefighters themselves, it only seemed like the right thing to do; we were glad to lend a hand."

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## Superintendent Bill Schuckmann

With nearly 30 percent of Hicksville Water's 2007 budget dedicated to capital improvements, the district expects to continue to follow its comprehensive plan to maintain and upgrade the existing infrastructure and facilities. This ongoing effort will ensure that the public receives an ample supply of quality water for drinking, household use and firefighting purposes at a reasonable cost.

### Water Tower Work Nearing Completion

After inclement weather caused a couple of setbacks in the work schedule, the project to refurbish the 1.25-million-gallon elevated water storage tank at Plant 1 on Bethpage Road will be completed in early June — in time for the upcoming summer season when the demand for water peaks. The work has been performed according to strict regulations set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the N.Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation. After the job is completed, the district will take the necessary steps to receive approval from the Nassau County Department of Health before the tank is returned to service.

## Plant 7 Update



The district is in the early stages of researching the possibility and feasibility of refurbishing an off-line well at Plant 7 on Miller Road. Currently, one well at this plant site is used only during times of high demand for water; a second well was removed from service some 20 years ago. It is likely that the off-line well would need to be re-drilled at a greater depth for it to meet today's drinking water standards. (left to right) Water Commissioners Richard Humann, Nicholas Brigandi and Karl Schweitzer recently visited the plant site where a test well has been put into place as part of the evaluation process.

### Plant 3 Status

After taking Plant 3 off-line some 20 years ago, the district conducted several studies and performed a series of tests over the past two years as it explored various options for rehabilitating the plant and returning it to service. As recommended by the NY State DEC, a decision has been made to add a new second well to the plant site. Studies show that blending the water pumped from two wells at a lower capacity will relieve the stress levels and pumping capacity that would occur if a single well were to be used. Final approval from the DEC is pending.

### Security Phase II Completed

The district has completed Phase II of its ongoing efforts to ensure that its plant sites and distribution system are kept secure and the water provided to consumers remains safe to drink. Improvements have included the introduction of a keyless access system, an updated alarm system and installation of closed circuit television. Additionally, a new sophisticated computer SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system now controls and monitors the district's 15 wells at 9 plant sites by gathering and analyzing data in real time. As well as improving efficiency tremendously, the system acts as an alarm by alerting plant operators to any issues that need attention, immediately upon detection.

### Be Aware of Hydrant Use

In the interest of safety, consumers are asked to call the water district at (516) 931-0184 if they see someone tampering with or opening a fire hydrant or notice any other unusual activity on or near water district property. Our phones are manned 24/7.

### Auto-Payment Option

If you haven't already done so, please stop by the water district office or visit our Web site at [hicksville-water.org](http://hicksville-water.org) to obtain a form to have your water bill paid directly from your checking account. It's a great convenience and very simple to arrange.

### Main Breaks Excessive

With some 30 water main breaks to tend to this past winter season, the district's repair crews were quite busy at all hours of the day and night. Fluctuations in the temperatures, as we experienced quite a bit of this past winter, will cause the earth to thaw and freeze and the soil to shift. With the district's 166 miles of water mains situated underground, they too will move about as the temperature changes, causing them to sometimes break.

# District Exploring Reverse 911

With recent advancements in communications technology and the availability of a variety of customized mass notifications systems in the marketplace, the Hicksville Water District, in the interest of public health and safety, is exploring the possibility of implementing a reverse 911 procedure. It will ensure that district officials can disseminate a uniform message to its consumers quickly and efficiently, if necessary. This can be achieved by forwarding recorded voice messages or sending faxes, emails or text messages.

“With more exacting methods being utilized to monitor the quality of the drinking water and homeland security issues remaining on the forefront, there is a more pressing need to have technology in place in the event mass public notification about a drinking water issue is necessary,” explained Hicksville Water Commissioner Richard Humann. “The cost to acquire reverse 911 capabilities has become more affordable and we are looking into the feasibility of implementing a system in Hicksville.”

In fact, district officials have joined forces with neighboring water purveyors in a cooperative effort to attract the best market price. While the group-purchasing concept, utilized in the past by the Hicksville Water District, will provide financial benefits, it will not restrict any participating water utility from customizing its individual program to meet its exact requirements and specific needs.

Although still in the exploratory stages, preliminary plans would allow consumers to select their preferred method of being contacted — voice telephone message, text message, fax or email. From there, a database would be created and ready for use, should the need to alert residents arise.

In cases where there is an imminent threat to the quality of the drinking water supply, for example, water officials would be able to quickly provide information about potential health effects and steps consumers can take to make informed choices. As a follow up, in a situation such as this, the reverse 911 system can also be utilized to communicate when clearance is given to use the water again.

“Our goal is to be in touch with the 48,000 residents we serve effectively and efficiently, particularly at a time of crisis,” Humann added. “Whether it’s to calm public concern about their drinking water during a power outage or major hurricane or deliver a boil water message in the case of a contamination, a reverse 911 system, which is capable of reaching out to thousands of people in a short time frame, may prove to be just the right tool for us.”

Such a communication system can also be utilized to target messages to specific areas— such as when hydrants are being flushed or other work is being done in the area. Other features included Spanish-speaking and hearing-impaired options.



## IN THE NEWS

### Hicksville’s Own Head Water Board

Commissioners Karl Schweitzer and Richard Humann continue to hold their positions as president and treasurer, respectively, on the board of the Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association, a professional organization of water districts administered by locally-elected commissioners. Through their membership in the association, the water officials, who are elected by the public, work cooperatively in the spirit of their common goal to maintain the excellence and ample quantity of Long Island’s public water supply at a reasonable cost to consumers.

### Water Super Leads Rotary

Hicksville Water Superintendent Bill Schuckmann has been elected by the membership to serve for a second time as president of the Rotary Club of Hicksville / Jericho. This is one of a handful of community organizations that Bill offers his time and commitment; most notable is the Hicksville Fire Department, where he has been a volunteer member for 35 years.

# Plant 11 Remains Off-Line

After removing the single supply well at Plant 11 from service this past fall, Hicksville water officials have been working with the district's consulting engineers and the Department of Environmental Conservation to look at various options for getting the plant back on-line. Although the utility's remaining infrastructure will allow it to keep up with the public's demand for water, the preference is to identify and introduce the appropriate treatment facility to address the problem.

"This is one of the reasons the district is committed to having a development plan in place," explained Commissioner Nicholas Brigandi. "When test results show a contaminant level that exceeds the health department's allowable threshold, as occurred this past November, a public water supplier is required to take immediate action. This would typically entail shutting down the well site in question until the source of the contamination can be identified."

The district is considering installing either a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system or air-stripping facility at Plant 11 to address the prob-

lem. Many Long Island water suppliers, including the Hicksville Water District, have successfully utilize this type of technology to remove volatile organic contaminants that may be present in the drinking water.

Meanwhile, Hicksville's well at Plant 11 will remain off-line until the best solution is found.

## Sprinkling Regulations

Use of water for irrigation purposes for lawns, shrubs, trees, plants and vegetation of any type is regulated by Nassau County. **ABSOLUTELY NO WATERING IS ALLOWED BETWEEN 10 AM AND 4 PM.** Sprinkling is permitted all other hours under the following guidelines:

- Residents with even house numbers and those without numbered addresses may water on **EVEN DATES.**
- Residents with odd house numbers may water on **ODD DATES.**

These rules apply to automatic, time-controlled sprinkler systems as well as manually-operated hose sprinkling.

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### YOUR HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT

4 Dean Street  
Hicksville, New York 11801

(516) 931-0184  
(516) 931-6506 (fax)  
[www.hicksvillewater.org](http://www.hicksvillewater.org)

#### Board Meetings

Second and Fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.  
at the district office, unless otherwise announced.

#### Business Hours

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Weekdays

#### Superintendent

William E. Schuckmann

#### Account Clerk

Doreen Brunning

#### Commissioners

Nicholas J. Brigandi, **Chairman**  
Richard Humann, **Treasurer**  
Karl M. Schweitzer, **Secretary**

**24 Hour Emergency Number**  
**(516) 931-0184**

#### Member

American Water Works Association  
Long Island Water Conference  
Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association

Proudly serving the Hicksville area since 1921.

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