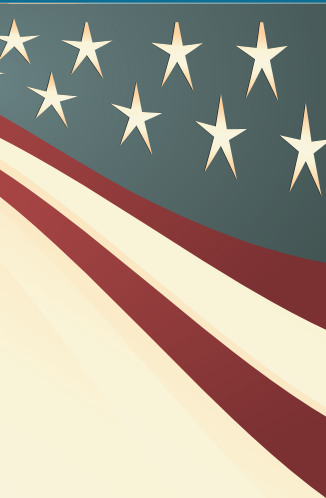




HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT

# WATER PROGRAM



**Hicksville Water District  
ELECTION DAY  
Tuesday,  
September 2, 2008**

As important as it is to vote in this year's Presidential Election, it's equally important to cast your vote in the annual Hicksville Water District Election. If you are a registered resident, you have the opportunity to elect an individual to serve a three-year term on the Hicksville Water District Board of Commissioners. Starting in 2009, voting will take place the second Tuesday of December.

**We look forward to seeing you at the polls!  
Voting to take place from 3 p.m. – 9 p.m.  
Hicksville Fire Department  
20 East Marie Street**

## Coming Soon The Re-Opening of Plant 11

Construction of a water treatment plant is nearing completion for Plant 11 and we are pleased to announce that the plant is scheduled to reopen within a matter of weeks. This was carried out after months of research, planning and reviewing options.

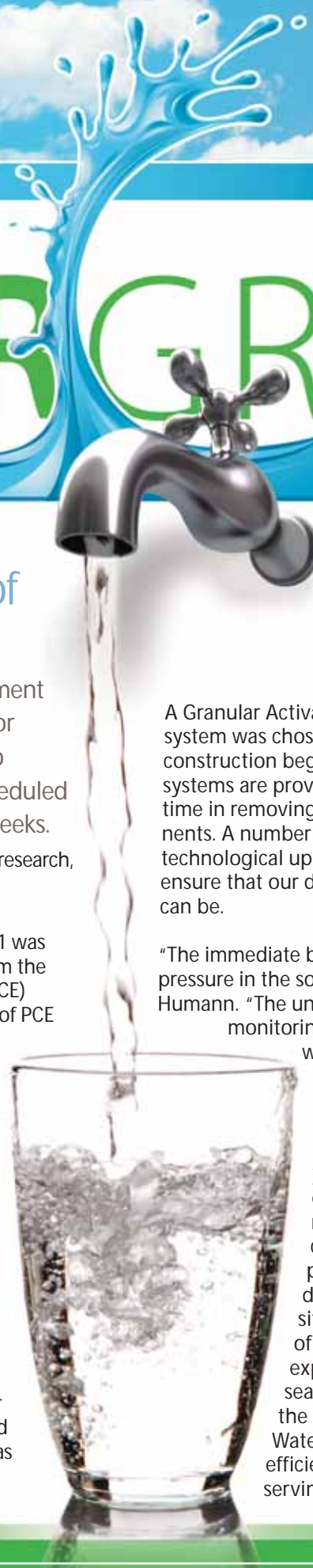
Many of you may know that Plant 11 was shut down to protect the public from the possibility of tetrachloroethylene (PCE) contamination. After the detection of PCE levels in the distribution system above the limits, our staff quickly identified Plant 11 as the source and immediately shut down the well. The District began a search for possible sources of the groundwater contamination and then solicited and received the help of the NYS DEC to begin a formal study. That search is still underway, and we are vigorously pursuing all leads to stop the contamination at its origin.

"It was determined that a treatment facility was needed to filter the water so that public safety was ensured and our high quality of drinking water was maintained," said Richard Humann, Chairman, Water Commissioner.

A Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration system was chosen as the best remedy, and construction began in late spring, 2008. GAC systems are proven to be highly effective over time in removing volatile organic contaminants. A number of other improvements and technological upgrades were also made to ensure that our drinking water is the best it can be.

"The immediate benefit will be increased water pressure in the south end of the District," said Humann. "The unseen benefit is the close monitoring and filtering of Plant 11 water to ensure its safety now and in the future."

The quick detection and timely remedy for Plant 11 is yet a further example of the efficiency of local management. The District is committed to its development plan, which clearly gives direction on handling situations of this type. Years of experience, technological expertise, and above all, seasoned professionals living in the District, make the Hicksville Water District one of the most efficient and cost-effective utilities serving the public.



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## From the Desk of Superintendent Bill Schuckmann

I'm pleased to welcome you to the premiere issue of Hicksville Water District's *Water Gram*. Our summer *Water Gram* is the official launch of the new publication – filled with news and features pertaining to the District. The *Water Gram* will be published three times a year, which will ensure a steady channel of communication for all our customers, both business and residential.

It's our obligation to keep you apprised of all news, information and developments relating to your water, and we're fully committed to delivering this messaging in a timely fashion.

With its new look, clean layout and targeted editorial content, *Water Gram* will be a very useful tool for you to understand what the Hicksville Water District does to ensure the best possible service and water supply. You can expect upcoming articles on capital improvements, major projects, distribution information, conservation tips and much, much more.

As always, our dedicated staff, who reside right here in the District, are fully committed to providing you and your family with the best quality of water. In addition to our 24/7 phone number, I invite you to share your feedback with me at (516) 931-0184.

## A Healthy Measure of Safety: Nitrate Gauges

Nitrates are key components in fertilizers used on farms, lawns, gardens, golf courses, etc. With the abundance of beautifully maintained greenery on Long Island, it is no surprise that nitrates can find their way into our water supply.

The Hicksville Water District has met this challenge head-on, before it might become a problem.

"We have installed Nitrate Gauges to monitor various plant sites as a precautionary measure," said Karl Schweitzer, Water Commissioner. "These gauges detect and measure the level of nitrates. If that level rises to exceed health standards, the gauges trigger a series of actions that automatically shut the well down."

When a well is shut down by this system, an emergency message is automatically forwarded through the District's computer SCADA system to the on-call team to take action.

Because the Nitrate Gauges are adjusted to read levels below the required standards, we are able to stay far ahead of these problems of contamination.

Added Schweitzer, "Our team constantly searches out and reviews emerging technologies such as these Nitrate Gauges to keep as many layers of protection possible to produce great tasting, healthy water."





## Preventative Maintenance of Our Wells

An important part of the Hicksville Water District's plan is to practice Preventative Maintenance in every aspect of our operations.

The point of Preventative Maintenance is to stay ahead of potential problems before they occur, so there is no interruption of service. "All of our plants, wells and equipment are on a schedule of repair or replacement that anticipates any malfunctioning," commented Nicholas Brigandi, Water Commissioner. "In a way, it's like the preventative checkups people do on their automobiles, to eliminate breakdowns on the road."

Money is a key factor in this procedure. It is far more cost-effective to deal with problems before they arise or when the repairs are minor rather than an actual serious repair.

Beside cost savings, our Preventative Maintenance programs save time, both in repair-hours and in the system being down for our customers. A system shutdown would cost the District even more money.

"All mechanical devices, technology, plants and wells deteriorate over time. They eventually need repair or replacement; it's just a fact of life. We can control it though, and we have found that our Preventative Maintenance programs save time, money and much inconvenience for the public," added Brigandi.

## Local Control Hicksville Water District by the Numbers

If you read the newspaper there is ongoing debate about whether the county bureaucracy should take control of your Water District or if it should be left to the managers who live in the community and work for you...our customers.

There have been claims that big government control will improve service and cut costs. This is unproven, and there are major flaws in those assertions.

Here are three verifiable facts:

- **\$2.35 a gallon of milk**
- **\$4.05 a gallon of gasoline**
- **Less than 1¢ a gallon of water**

Hicksville water...priceless! We're still the best bargain in town and fully managed by local control, your elected water commissioners.

Although the cost-to-consumer for other utilities climbs year after year, Hicksville Water District customers can rest assured that access to safe and reliable water is stabilized at only about a dollar a day. Although money has been used as a "red flag," the taxpayer actually supports the Hicksville Water District with an extremely small portion of their tax dollar.



One of the most important points in this issue is that the Commissioners and most of the team of the Hicksville Water District are residents of the District. They have close, long-time community ties and a very personal interest in the families and future of the District. Keeping control in the hands of local, loyal residents ensures a level of involvement and quality that outside managers would be hard-put to provide.

"The fact is, the Hicksville Water District has for decades produced and delivered extremely high quality water at prices that rank lowest of most public services," commented Karl Schweitzer, Water Commissioner. "There are very few government bureaus or departments on the county or state level that can claim success in delivering a quality service and product at a low cost such as we have done."

*The fact is, the Hicksville Water District produced and delivered extremely high quality water at prices that rank lowest of most public services.*



# HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT WATERGRAM

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## Hicksville Water District

4 Dean Street  
Hicksville, NY 11801

516.931.0184  
[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

Richard A. Humann, **Chairman**  
Nicholas J. Brigandi, **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.*

Produced by Progressive Marketing Group  
[www.pmgstrategic.com](http://www.pmgstrategic.com)

## Richard A. Humann, Commissioner

After twenty-four years of service to the Hicksville Community, Commissioner, Richard A. Humann is retiring.

Commissioner Humann was elected to his first term in 1984, just months after the first treatment system was installed. During his tenure it was the most progressive span in Hicksville Water District history where the District was forced to put treatment on 14 of its 16 wells. He led the District during its period of addressing the issue of water contamination and it was through his wisdom, knowledge and foresight that water treatment systems were designed and constructed. Commissioner Humann sought to ensure that a pure water source was available to the residents he served. In addition to addressing contamination, he was able to secure a long-term lease with the Towns of Oyster Bay and Hempstead to secure the property and erect a well at Plant 11. Commissioner Nicholas Brigandi remarked that his colleague was 100% committed to ensuring the same high quality water for the residents of today as well as for future generations.

Humann has served for over eight years as Treasurer of the Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association, a professional association that meets monthly to address administrative and policy issues that impact Long

Island's public water suppliers. In addition to his Water District duties, Commissioner Humann had a distinguished 36-year career with the U.S. Postal Service. Beginning as a letter carrier, he worked his way up to become delivery supervisor at the mammoth Hicksville Post Office, where he managed more than 80 employees. Prior to his retirement in 2000, he was postmaster at the Jericho Post Office. Commissioner Karl Schweitzer commented that Humann's dedication to his work both with the District and outside is awe-inspiring. "Working with Commissioner Humann has been an honor and privilege. His dedication to the community is unparalleled."

A graduate of Hicksville High School, Humann is a member of Hicksville's Community Council, Chamber of Commerce and the Hicksville Fire Department, Volunteer Hose Company 4, which he joined in 1965 and is currently the Department's financial secretary. Commissioner Humann is also a member of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, where he serves on the church council. He has also volunteered his time as a local girl's soccer coach.

He and his wife, Bette, who recently retired, celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary in 2008, and look forward to spending their free time enjoying activities with their four children and six grandchildren.



Richard A. Humann,  
**Chairman**