



Greenlawn Water District  
45 Railroad Street  
Greenlawn, NY 11740  
(631) 261-0874  
www.greenlawnwater.org

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
William M. Wieck, Chairman  
John T. McLaughlin, Treasurer  
James M. Logan, Secretary

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Robert Santoriello

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
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# GREENLAWN

Spring 2008  Water District Report  
Water is precious...use it wisely

## Stronger Infrastructure

Greenlawn Water District residents should know that our water was voted "Best Tasting Water in Suffolk County" in a 2007 taste test. It's something we never get tired of hearing and we work hard to keep your water quality pure. The GWD has been implementing a 5-year infrastructure maintenance and improvement plan that stresses safety, security and economic cost controls in accordance with our stated mission, which is:

- To deliver a pure and plentiful water supply to our consumers with sufficient pressure at reasonable cost.
- To safeguard our community by maintaining adequate storage reserves, especially for fire protection purposes.
- To be vigilant in identifying and protecting our precious water supply from potential sources of contamination, to promote conservation and to remain in compliance with all regulatory agencies.

We constantly maintain all parts of our water delivery system, refurbishing wells, ensuring that pumps and motors are working efficiently and that water quality is excellent. Parts of our system are reaching their intended service lives. Our plan includes a study to evaluate conditions and performance including the useful service life of the piping as well as sizing to meet present day needs. Based on the results, some piping may be scheduled for replacement. For the record, all of our distribution mains are either cast iron or ductile iron. No asbestos piping has ever been used in our system.

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(Left to Right) Commissioners Bill Wieck, John McLaughlin and James Logan.

### Water Tank To Be Painted



### Well #17

"Our newest well is operating just fine." Stated Superintendent Bob Santoriello "That's Well #17. It has been on line for over a year with no downtime and adds considerable capacity to reinforce the system during peak demand periods."



In 2007, the District delivered nearly 2.3 billion gallons to our customers! Pumping from 680' down in the Magothy Aquifer, Well # 17 supplies an additional 1,000 gallons per minute to the system or some 1.4 million gallons per day."

After 20 years of service since its last "paint job", our elevated storage tank at Wicks Road in Commack is being scheduled for restoration work. Built in 1955, the 1-million gallon tank needs routine painting and certain structural upgrades. As you might imagine, projects of this nature are expensive but necessary to maintain the integrity of the structure. Thankfully, long range planning by the Board of Commissioners had anticipated this cost and budgeted accordingly.

Interesting note: In 1955 the contract price to erect, paint and deliver the tank was \$250,000. Today's cost for the maintenance work may be upwards of 1.5 million dollars!

## The Dollar Still Goes A Long Way

Residents have been receiving excellent quality water since the GWD drilled its first well in 1928. In fact our water has been voted the best tasting in New York State and/or Suffolk County numerous times. But the country seems to have a thirst for bottled water. Amazingly enough, the US market for bottled water is some \$15 billion. And there are more astonishing facts.

The first 8,000 gallons of GWD water you use will cost exactly \$10 dollars! And your rates are scaled so the average GWD residential consumer is actually billed at \$0.90 per 1,000 gallons of additional water used. So a dollar still buys quite a bit in Greenlawn.

Compare that with most national brands of bottled water which cost close to \$1.60 per gallon at local markets. So for ten dollars you can get approximately 6.25 gallons of bottled water...or 8,000 gallons of Greenlawn's finest, which of course tastes great and is tested regularly. The choice is yours.



Some people are just naturally giving throughout all paths of their life...or have incredibly funny comments for every occasion...or capture your undivided attention with tidbits of your town's history like you've never heard before. These are people you love to be around - like Haydee Geluso, who worked in the water district office from 1970-82, and recently passed away at 91, completing an incredibly full life of community involvement while raising four children. Her volunteer credentials are endless! And while a member of the GWD staff, it was she who originated the slogan used on our bills and letterhead... "Water is Precious...Use It Wisely."

Haydee your kind ways and beautiful smile will be missed.

Milestones  
To Haydee With Love



## Stronger Infrastructure *continued from cover*

### Water Meter Replacement Program

Meter technology has advanced in leaps and bounds, expanding options to gather meter readings. Previously, meters had to be manually read, meaning accessing basements or opening meter vaults outside the home. Today's automated reading systems incorporate electronic meter registers and radio frequency. This allows readings to be collected from handheld devices, which then downloads information directly to a database. This virtually eliminates reading and billing errors, drastically reduces meter reading time, boosts privacy and improves safety for GWD personnel. The District has recently embarked on a phased installation approach in anticipation of greater accuracy and reduced long term costs.

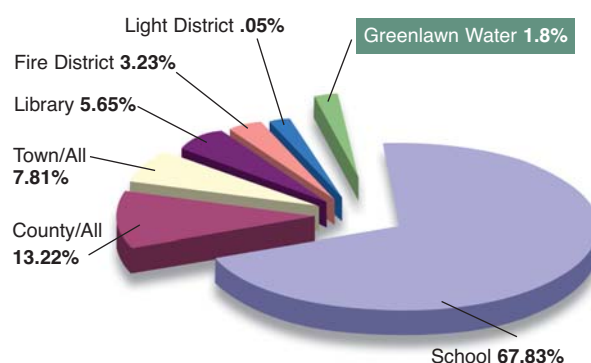


## Our Fire Districts: Ensuring Safety

The GWD continues to work in tandem with each of the various Fire Districts we serve to ensure the greatest fire safety. Commissioner Bill Wieck commented, "We supply five fire districts besides Greenlawn, including parts of Centerport, Commack, Dix Hills, East Northport and Huntington Manor. The mutual cooperation between the water district and fire districts on hydrant testing and maintenance aids greatly in ensuring the community against fire related losses." Commissioner Wieck added that to report fire hydrant tampering or illegal use of water, simply call (631) 261-0874.



### Typical Greenlawn Tax Assessment



## Keeping Your Water Safe

Water is Earth's greatest natural resource and as stewards of this, it is the GWD's duty to keep clean, pure water safe and flowing. Your water travels up from the Glacial and Magothy aquifers far below ground level. The GWD monitors water quality in accordance with federal and state regulatory agencies requirements.

Commissioner Logan noted the continual monitoring of GWD water. "Sampling for our wells and distribution system is conducted in accordance with monitoring requirements set forth by Suffolk County Department of Health (SCDH). In fact, all samples are analyzed by an independent NYS certified lab with results reported to SCDH as well as our office. There are more than 200 constituents analyzed and bacteriological samples are collected regularly from various points in the distribution system including all the schools we serve. We also conduct routine sampling beyond the requirements: Be assured...the water you drink IS constantly monitored!!"



Typical sampling measures the levels of inorganic, volatile organic, unregulated, radiological and bacteriological constituents.

## Cub Scouts Visit Well #14

4th Graders of Webelos Cobra Den 8 from Pack 400 visited our Well #14 site recently and were given the water-drop's view of its journey from underground (Magothy aquifer) to your faucet, which we sometimes take for granted! GWD welcomes the opportunity to have young groups in our community learn about their water supply, and how to protect it.



## What is Backflow Prevention All About?

Backflow conditions may arise when very low or negative street pressure occurs due to water main breaks, damaged hydrants, etc. If there is no backflow prevention device (BPD), water in home and commercial plumbing systems might be siphoned backwards toward the street water main. For a simple example imagine a garden hose filling a swimming pool with the hose end submerged, when, at the same time, a nearby street water main ruptures. This could set up a possible negative pressure condition that allows the "backsiphonage" of the pool water. Of course there are many other conditions including "backpressure" which can pose a hazard to the potable supply. When properly installed and maintained, backflow prevention devices guard against these conditions, so please check requirements with our office when installing new plumbing systems and/or underground irrigation. Licensed plumbers and sprinkler contractors are also knowledgeable of these requirements. If you already have a backflow device installed on your plumbing systems, be sure to have it tested annually! And of special note, when winterizing underground irrigation systems, be sure the system is isolated from the potable feed line BEFORE using the air compressor to blow out the lines!



Superintendent Bob Santoriello

## Consolidation or Home Rule?

There has been much discussion in the media about consolidation of special districts on Long Island. We believe that concerned, efficient home rule makes a great deal of sense. The GWD is an independent entity with commissioners elected by the people of the district to safeguard the water supply, guarantee delivery and to maintain infrastructure. Your commissioners are longtime residents of the area. Commissioner Logan stated, "I believe that local interests are best represented by local people, your neighbors, who raise their families here, go to school here and worship here." As Commissioner McLaughlin commented, "Our primary concern is to provide the highest quality water for our families and our neighbors. We are proud to point out that this local control, through the hardworking efforts of the GWD team, has brought pure and safe water delivery to our customers for over 80 years."

Commissioner Wieck also added that "in 1927 the original commissioners could never have envisioned the area's transformation from rural agrarian area to a suburban

population of 40,000+. Nor could they have foreseen the building and maintenance of more than 175 miles of water mains to service these individuals. We have grown our infrastructure as needed, and we believe our response time and problem solving have been exemplary, as history and many appreciative letters and emails testify."

"And being residents ourselves," Commissioner McLaughlin remarked, "we are extremely cost conscious at all times. No one wants higher rates. In fact, with local control, our water bill represents the lowest monthly utility cost." Consolidation may remain an issue but we believe that the Greenlawn Water District should answer to no one but the community it serves.



## 2008 Election

This year's election for Commissioner will take place on Tuesday, December 9, 2008 between 3:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. at the District office, 45 Railroad St., Greenlawn. The forthcoming 3-year term will run from January 1, 2009 – December 31, 2011.

Qualifications to vote:

- 1) A citizen of the United States.
- 2) At least 18 years of age.
- 3) Reside within the District at least 30 days prior to the election date.
- 4) A registered voter under the Suffolk County Permanent Registration on or before Nov. 17, 2008.

Please call our office at (631) 261-0874 for additional information.

## New Website

Our new website is on line and contains a lot of information. Please take a look at [www.greenlawnwater.org](http://www.greenlawnwater.org). Your comments and observations are greatly appreciated.



## Honoring our Vets:

The freedoms of our great nation do not come without cost or sacrifice. The GWD believes that those who have protected and guarded our American ideals and way of life, and those currently holding the American banner high, should forever be honored. The GWD proudly salutes all of our veterans, active military personnel and the troops serving the United States of America in every corner of the globe.

