

GREENLAWN

Spring 2009  Water District Report
Water is precious...use it wisely

Sound Infrastructure & No Tax Increase...Again

Diligent financial planning has enabled the Greenlawn Water District to perform continual infrastructure maintenance with no increase in the tax or water rate, or the need for bonding. Weather and the sheer wear and tear of daily usage take their toll on our wells, pumps, motors and buildings. In the past 12 months infrastructure maintenance has included refurbishment of both Well #11 and the Wicks Road storage tank, which together represented an expenditure of some \$3.6 million.

Water Tank Update

The complete refurbishment of our 1-million gallon elevated storage tank at Wicks Road in Commack is right on schedule. Built during the Eisenhower administration in 1955, it is being repainted inside and out, and ladders and railings are being upgraded in compliance with current regulations.

"The interior is virtually finished as of this writing" commented Superintendent Bob Santoriello, *"and the tank will be put back on line to meet increased summer demand. The second phase (exterior painting) is scheduled to begin in September. We appreciate your patience as we undertake the scheduled maintenance."* Strategic planning by The Board of Commissioners had budgeted approximately \$2 million for this refurbishment without issuing bonds, thus not burdening taxpayers with additional debt service or interest. Please call Superintendent Bob Santoriello directly with any questions at 631-261-0874.

Going Green!



Solar panels conserve energy at Well #11

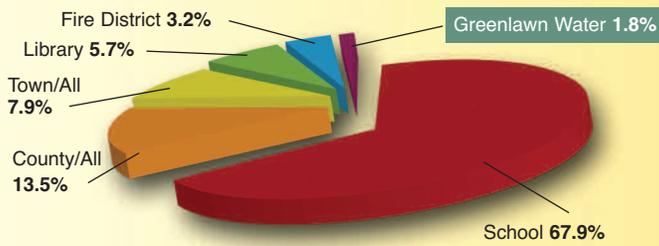
Green is Good! The GWD recognized the opportunity to go green during new treatment system installation at Well #11. Originally drilled in 1965, the well has now been outfitted with a granular activated carbon system to improve water quality.



Commissioner John McLaughlin stated, *"We recognized the potential to go green and conserve electricity at Well #11 and entertained bids both with and without solar panels. Right now the three roof-mounted panels will provide a small portion of the necessary electricity. It's a good start."*

The Commissioner also confirmed that the GWD will continue to seek energy and cost saving opportunities for the good of the public and the environment. For example, a similar treatment system is currently in design phase at Well #13 in Commack.

Typical Greenlawn Tax Assessment



We are pleased to report that there will be no increase in the tax rate or water rates in 2009. In fact the rate for the first 8,000 gallons of Greenlawn's finest has been \$10.00 since January 1st, 2005. The fire sprinkler annual flat rate (\$500) also hasn't gone up since January 1st, 2001. And water is still less than 2% of a typical annual tax assessment.

Maintaining Hydrant Safety

The recent fatal fire in Selden has focused many people on fire hydrant safety and inspection.

Commissioner Jim Logan observed *"Our focus never changes. Every one of our hydrants, and we have over 1,200, is inspected and tested annually, if not more often. By agreement, each Fire Department inspects, flow tests and paints the hydrants in their areas. The Fire Departments** pay a rental fee of \$1.00 per hydrant per year to the Greenlawn Water District. The Water District's field maintenance personnel maintain and make all repairs."*

****Greenlawn, Centerport, Commack, Dix Hills, East Northport and Huntington Manor.**



• To report a damaged or non-working hydrant call 631-261-0874.

Local Control & Consolidation

Consolidation of Long Island water districts is a hot topic. It is the opinion of the Greenlawn Water District that changing control from the local level puts our water supply and the associated costs in the hands of non-residents who may live miles away and have different water needs and challenges. Our district is regulated by the New York State and Suffolk County Departments of Health, and the Environmental Protection Agency. GWD scrupulously adheres to all applicable standards. We work in harmony with the Huntington Town Board. So why change? Surveys indicate that in a consolidated district, tax rates are likely to rise through redistribution of the financial burdens of other districts.

Commissioner Bill Wieck remarked *"Greenlawn is our home and we are pledged as stewards of the water environment to provide a constant supply of pure water at all times to all consumers. That's why you might see our people fixing a broken main at 3:00 in the morning on an icy winter day."*

"Another part of our mission is protecting and safeguarding our water supply."

Commissioner Wieck added. *"New York has the most stringent regulations in the*

nation. GWD monitors water quality from all 13 sources of supply and our distribution system regularly." The distribution system is sampled twice per week on average at representative locations. Wells are sampled at least quarterly. Commissioner Logan added that the pH of the water is adjusted to *"reduce corrosive action on the mains, pipes and the plumbing in homes and businesses."*

No Rate Increase

Currently water represents the smallest regular utility cost of all. And the Board of Commissioners appreciates that in these uncertain economic times, no one needs higher rates. *"So we work harder and smarter to be more efficient, to do more with less,"* noted Commissioner Wieck. *"That's why there has been no increase in our tax or water rates for four years."*

Through 82 years of service and locally elected commissioners, history has shown the effectiveness of home rule in the Greenlawn Water District. It is clearly evident in 2009 in the form of low taxes and excellent water quality and purity.



(Left to right) Water Commissioners Jim Logan, John McLaughlin, and Bill Wieck.

BAE: Conservation In Action

When BAE Systems committed to an Energy Curtailment and Sustainability Initiative, water conservation was a major objective. And they have succeeded in a most impressive manner.

A global company engaged in developing land, sea and air defense and security systems, BAE's Pulaski Road facility used GWD water to cool thermal test chambers. The water was then sent to a surface water recharge basin. As part of a company-wide Energy Curtailment and Green Campaign, BAE developed a closed loop cooling system.

Now **BAE's usage has been reduced by more than 100 million gallons, saving the company over \$140,000 annually.** And the Greenlawn Water District saves the equivalent water demand of 2,500 homes per year.

Additional water savings have been realized by the installation of water saver aerators, shower heads and smart irrigation systems. Part of BAE's mandate was to create a culture that fosters sustainability and responsibility in reducing the need for energy and stopping waste.

Commissioner John McLaughlin cited BAE's changes as an *"incredible turnabout of water usage thanks to the conservation efforts. The measures that BAE Systems has taken to reduce demand and ensure savings are exemplary, and will be passed on to future generations."*



Commissioner John McLaughlin (center) with BAE's Sean Delehanty (left) and Jack Enright.

2009 Election

The next GWD election is scheduled for December 8th, at the Greenlawn Water District office, 45 Railroad Street. Polls will be open from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m. The forthcoming term will run from January 1, 2010 to December 31, 2012. To vote, you must be:

- a citizen of the USA
- at least 18 years of age
- a registered voter under the Suffolk County Permanent Registration on or before November 16, 2009
- a resident of the Greenlawn Water District at least 30 days prior to the election date

Election notices will be placed in The Long Islander and The Record and also on our website www.greenlawnwater.org. Please call our office at 631-261-0874 for more information.

Milestones

We would like to acknowledge the recent passing of Anthony Sposato, who retired in 1991 after 28 years with GWD serving as both operator and later as foreman. Those of us who had the pleasure to know Tony will remember him with affection as a very caring individual and true gentleman, as well as a man whose work ethic was impeccable.



Saluting our Vets

There is no greater service that a man or woman can provide than standing up and being counted in defense of our country. Our wonderful freedoms are enjoyed by more than 300 million Americans. Our military and defense personnel have endured great costs and sacrifices in their defense. The GWD proudly salutes all those who have served under the stars and stripes, especially those who have risked or sacrificed their lives in support of this great country.



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Legislation has been discussed to deal with the plague of one-use-and-discard water bottles. At best only 20% of these are ever recycled. The clear plastic bottles extend our dependence on foreign oil and clog our landfills...virtually forever. Manufacturing them consumes 1.5 - 2.0 million barrels of oil annually and usage is growing.

In Greenlawn we are fortunate to have excellent quality water, winning Suffolk's Best Tasting Water in 2007, and having won both the county and New York State contests often in the past. Why pay a premium for bottled when the best water is right here in the Greenlawn Water District?



Help The Environment

Conservation Makes Sense

- ▶ We're blessed with great water but conservation saves our resources and lowers costs for the District and for you! Consider these conservation tips:
- ▶ Aeration of lawns and mulching around plants increases water absorption so you'll use less water.
- ▶ Low flow showerheads average 24 gallons less per shower!
- ▶ Hi-efficiency kitchen sink aerators increase areas of coverage and reduce water use by 50%.
- ▶ A faucet dripping once per second can send 8 gallons per day down the drain...3,000+ gallons per year.
- ▶ Evaporation can claim up to 30% of your lawn sprinkling water on a hot sunny day. Water in the early morning. Evening watering can cause fungus growth.
- ▶ Keep grass 2.5"-3.0" high and roots will be shaded and hold moisture better.