

# GREENLAWN

## Water District Report

Water is precious...use it wisely.



Spring 2011



### Holding The Line

#### On Taxes & Water Rates.

In these uncertain economic times, balancing the needs of the Water District's aging infrastructure and growing population with budgets requires a lot of analysis, vision and common sense. The GWD commissioners are continuing the highly effective preventive maintenance and modernization program and are pleased to announce that there won't be a water rate or tax increase in 2011.

The preventive maintenance schedule includes all parts of the District's water delivery infrastructure. "The proactive maintenance schedule instituted some years back enables us to better control the cost and downtime of our facilities," Commissioner James Logan noted. "Some parts are visible like the Wicks Road elevated water tower, which stores 1,000,000 gallons. But the vast majority of our infrastructure is underground."

"There's a lot of maintenance when you have approximately 200 miles of mains and pipes, some of it dating to the 1930s," Commissioner Bill Wieck added. "Our preventive maintenance includes flushing every one of our 1,239 hydrants, inspecting and servicing generators, as well as meter inspections and refurbishment of wells. Some hydrants were badly damaged by this winter's weather. We're replacing several motors and pumps that were not working efficiently enough. Ultimately, this maintenance ensures that our Greenlawn water quality is excellent and that the cost to our residents is controlled."

"You can't just take this for granted. There are laws and guidelines, but GWD customers deserve the best quality water at the lowest cost," Commissioner John McLaughlin added. "We regularly inspect all our wells and tanks, and the Suffolk County Board of Health makes annual inspections of facilities as well. We also do safety checks every day...rain, snow or shine."

#### Our Commissioners

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



### Chlorination Update.

Last July 1st, a water sample collected from District Well #16 indicated the presence of E.coli bacteria. Since Well #16 is only one of 13 active supply wells, the GWD immediately removed it from service, posted a public alert and instituted a precautionary "boil water advisory." Following confirmation that no E.coli bacteria were found in the water distribution system, the advisory was lifted on July 4th. Since then all tests in the distribution system and from the operating District wells have shown no bacterial contamination. However, Well #16 remains off line and is locked out of the distribution system while aggressive sampling and monitoring continues.

Commissioner Wieck stated, "For the record, E.coli bacteria was never detected in any sample taken from the water distribution system. While water samples collected from Well #16 after it was removed from service have shown some improvement, we will not allow this well to be placed into operation unless we can be assured that the distributed water can continue to be within health department drinking water standards."

Chlorination was mandated by the Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS) and continues as of this printing. "Precautionary disinfection is standard operating procedure, and the method and concentrations of disinfectant added are consistent with the disinfection practices of virtually every Long Island-based public water supplier," Commissioner McLaughlin commented.

"Disinfection of public water supplies is required in NY State and can only be waived if very strict regulatory conditions are met to the satisfaction of SCDHS. We are hopeful that, based on continued demonstration of compliance with those conditions, the waiver can be reinstated and chlorination will no longer be necessary. Right now that is in the hands of the SCDHS," Commissioner Logan stated.

Superintendent Bob Santoriello explained, "Nearly all the public water supply provided in the United States receives some disinfection, and over 90% of those systems utilize some form of chlorine to accomplish this water treatment goal. Chlorine

is particularly effective in preventing microbial regrowth throughout the water system, from the well to the tap."

## Refreshing Facts.

- **The first 8,000 gallons of GWD water costs \$10.00, unchanged since 2005.**
- **There has been no increase in the fire sprinkler annual flat rate since 2001.**
- **The cost of GWD water is still less than 2% of a typical annual tax assessment.**

## Tank III Update Completed.

The refurbishment of the 1,000,000-gallon storage Tank #3 is now complete. A large, time-consuming task, it took 24 months to complete the interior and exterior refurbishment of the 210-foot tank. Commissioner Logan stated, "Despite some tough weather, we're pleased that this refurbishment came in on budget and that we were able to accomplish it without issuing bonds."

For more information, call Superintendent Bob Santoriello at 631-261-0874.



## Two Longtime GWD Vets Retiring.

It seems like just yesterday, but Richard Nixon was in the White House when Ed Wojcik and Mike Corwin came to the GWD.

A graduate of Walt Whitman High School, Ed served his country in the US Army, including 18 months in Vietnam. With 41 years on the job, Ed is looking forward to his hobby of playing guitar. Hey Ed, is that Jimi Hendrix or BB King style?

Mike is a graduate of Harborfields High School and Wilson Tech and also served in the US Army. Mike came to the Greenlawn Water District in 1972 and has been a member of the Greenlawn Fire Department since 1967. Thank you for your service, and good luck to you both!



Ed Wojcik and Mike Corwin: 80 years of service.

## New Pump For Wells #5 & #8.

Given the amount of usage they have seen, Wells #5 and #8 have functioned far beyond expectation. Well #5 was drilled in 1956 and Well #8 was drilled in 1963. Both operate at 1,200 gallons per minute. New high capacity pumps, motors and electrical controls are being installed in both to keep them functioning efficiently. Also, Well #8 recently received new Granulated Activated Carbon, which exhibits extremely high porosity, to absorb potential contaminants. In fact, a mere 10 grams of activated carbon has a surface area equal to a football field! And a pound has a surface area of 125 acres! Similar upgrading was previously done last year at Well #13 and Well #11 in 2009. They are both performing perfectly according to plan.

## Conservation Management Saves Water.

It may be difficult to recall given the snow, ice and rain of this past winter, but the summer of 2010 was extremely hot and dry. Commissioner Wieck noted that, "2010 was a record year for water usage. From June through September we pumped 1.425 billion gallons to meet demand. In August alone, GWD customers used over 415 million gallons! Both are all time records."

The Commissioners ask that in 2011 GWD residents be aware of the need to conserve water. Not only will this hold your water bills down, but you will be doing a great community service. Here are 7 ways you can help:

- 1. Don't over water lawns.**
- 2. Water lawns during early or late parts of the day.**
- 3. Report damaged or non-working hydrants by calling 631-261-0874.**
- 4. Repair leaky faucets and running toilets.**
- 5. Install water-saving shower heads.**
- 6. Don't run the hose while washing cars.**
- 7. Turn off the faucet while you brush your teeth.**



# Keeping Control Of Greenlawn Water In Greenlawn.



Consolidation is one of those topics that sound reasonable but does not reflect the real world. The fact is, your Greenlawn Water District has been producing and delivering high quality water at prices that rank among the lowest of public utilities...for decades. Very few governments, especially one that operates 24/7, 365 days a year, can make those claims.

## It Pays to Know the Facts.

The GWD is your district. You vote for the Commissioners. Your control as a taxpayer is right here in Greenlawn. It's important to realize that:

1. There has been no water rate increase or tax rate increase since 2005, thanks to effective maintenance and supervision.
2. The recent water crisis was handled in an exemplary fashion with as little stress on the community as possible.
3. Your GWD is solely dedicated to ensuring the safest, most plentiful water supply, not for supporting less well-run organizations elsewhere.
4. You have the power to elect the Commissioners directly. By law, all GWD Commissioners must be Greenlawn Water District residents.
5. Typically, the Commissioners have longstanding community ties and personal interests in the area.
6. All expenditures, income, distribution and management are public record.
7. The District has enjoyed many water taste contest successes on the local, county and NYS levels.
8. Water still typically represents less than 2% of an average tax bill.

So why change when in a consolidated district tax rates are likely to rise with redistribution of the financial burdens of other districts?



## Election 2010 & 2011.

On December 14, 2010, John McLaughlin was reelected Water Commissioner for the Greenlawn Water District.

Mr. McLaughlin started his new three-year term as Greenlawn Water District Treasurer effective January 1, 2011. Commissioner McLaughlin has been a resident of Greenlawn since 1971 and a Water Commissioner since 1996.



## Upcoming Election.

The next GWD election is for the three-year term January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014. The election is scheduled for December 13, 2011 with voting at the Greenlawn Water District office, 45 Railroad Street. Polls will be open from 3 p.m. until 9 p.m.

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 21, 2011
- 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. Also see the GWD website [www.greenlawnwater.org](http://www.greenlawnwater.org) or the Huntington town website [www.huntington.ny.us](http://www.huntington.ny.us). Please call our office at **631-261-0874** for more information.

## Honoring The Most Honorable:

### Saluting Our Veterans.

This year Memorial Day will be celebrated on Monday, May 30, as our national day of remembrance. The GWD proudly acknowledges all the men and women who have so unselfishly served the stars and stripes, especially those who have given their all to enable our great nation to truly be the land of the free and the home of the brave. We salute those who have served, and we pray that those who are currently serving may come home safely.





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 45 Railroad Street  
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 (631) 261-0874  
 www.greenlawnwater.org

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 Robert Santoriello

**CREW LEADER**  
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 Marilyn Hopkin

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## Emergency Notification Services.

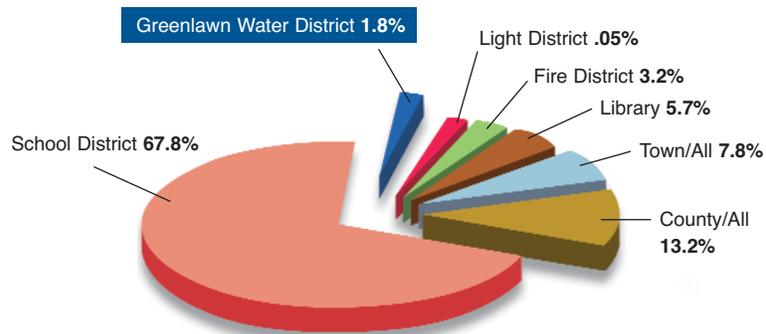
You may recall receiving a notification about Swift 911 Emergency Notification System late last year with your water bill. Swift 911 automatically calls you with a prerecorded message in the event of a water emergency. If you haven't done so already, you should register now. "It just takes a few minutes to sign up," Commissioner McLaughlin said. "And then you have the added protection of Swift 911."



Please call 631-261-0874 and indicate how you would like to be notified...by phone, text message and/or email. See our website [www.greenlawnwater.org](http://www.greenlawnwater.org) for more information.



## Typical Greenlawn Tax Assessment.



## Voluntary Lawn Sprinkling Regulations (June 1 - September 15).



- **All odd street numbered homes and businesses:** water for irrigation on odd numbered days.
- **All even street numbered homes and businesses:** water for irrigation on even numbered days.
- **No street number:** water on odd numbered days.

**Note:** Sprinkling during the heat of the day causes much of the water to evaporate. For best results, irrigate before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.