

# GREENLAWN

## Water District Report

Water is precious...use it wisely

GOD BLESS AMERICA

SPRING 2015

## Managing Throughout a Tough Winter

**MOTHER NATURE HURLED** frigid temperatures, freezing rain and some 62 inches of snow at us, but thanks to our dedicated crew, there were no interruptions in water service. "Winter can brutalize a delivery system," Commissioner Jim Logan stated. "In Greenlawn, with over 40,000 customers and water mains that would stretch to Boston if laid end to end, there are innumerable

opportunities for damage, but this year our Preventive Maintenance Program really proved its value.

### PERFECT MAINTENANCE OPPORTUNITY:

Commissioner Logan added, "Wells are simple in theory but require significant regular care to comply with AWWA standards as well as federal

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## THE CONSERVATION TOP TEN



- 1 Water lawns only 1 to 2 inches per week. That's all they really need folks!
- 2 Early morning watering lessens evaporation loss.
- 3 Check hose connections, washers, exterior spigots, sprinklers, pools and spas, and repair leaks.
- 4 Soaker hoses use 50% less water than sprinklers, deliver water directly to the root zone and reduce mold and mildew.
- 5 Using WaterSense\* faucets, showerheads and toilets can save hundreds of gallons of water annually.
- 6 Use short, repeated watering cycles to deliver water at a rate soil can absorb.
- 7 Eliminate toilet leaks which can waste up to 300 gallons of water per day! Helpful hint to check if toilet is leaking: Add 10 drops of food coloring to the toilet tank. If coloring appears in the bowl after 30 minutes, you have a leak!!
- 8 Mound soil to form a water collection basin around plants and shrubs.
- 9 Two inches of mulch around planting beds slows evaporation from soil and suppresses weeds.
- 10 Never pour motor oil onto the street or down a storm drain. Return motor oil for recycling.

\*[epa.gov/watersense](http://epa.gov/watersense)

## DID YOU KNOW:

# Dispose Of Medicines Properly!

Safeguarding the environment has taken on greater meaning. Flushing unused or out-of-date medicines down the drain was once accepted practice but it is no longer. Help keep Greenlawn's water pure. Please follow the latest federal guidelines:

- Don't wash them down the drain or flush them down the toilet unless the container label specifically directs you to do so.
- Always check with your local pharmacy to see if they accept unused or unwanted drugs.
- Remove unwanted drugs from their containers, place them in sealable bags and dispose of them with your trash. FYI, The Town of Huntington incinerates all its refuse, so the disposed drugs will be safely destroyed.
- As a further precaution, mix them with kitty litter or coffee grounds to make them less attractive to wild or domestic animals.
- Check for community drug take-back programs to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.
- Before discarding medicine containers, scratch out all identifying information on the prescription label to make it unreadable. This will help protect your identity and the privacy of your personal health information.
- Never give medicine to friends. Doctors prescribe medicines based on specific symptoms and medical history. A medicine that works for you could be dangerous for someone else.
- When in doubt about proper disposal, talk to your local pharmacist.

Closest disposal location: Second Precinct,  
1071 Park Avenue, Huntington

Other disposal locations:  
[http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/63826.html#Long\\_Island](http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/63826.html#Long_Island)



## Bottled Versus Tap. **NO CONTEST!**

### IS BOTTLED WATER REALLY A GOOD IDEA?

Maybe not if you examine the facts.

1. Long Island's tap water undergoes far more testing and is far more regulated than bottled water.
2. The NRDC conducted a comprehensive four-year scientific study of 1,000 brands of bottled water. The results showed that one third of the bottled waters violated their own industry standards for water quality.
3. Plastic water bottles can take between 400 and 1,000 years to decompose. So if William the Conqueror used plastic bottles, they would probably be gone by now. Probably.
4. Only 20% of all plastic bottles are recycled...in a good year.
5. Americans alone consume nearly nine billion gallons of bottled water annually. That's how many billions of bottles?
6. On Long Island, bottled water can cost anywhere from 250 times to a thousand times as much as tap water.
7. The average American used 167 water bottles but only recycled 38 of them. So chances are there are 129 bottles for each of us in a landfill or lying on the sides of roads.
8. In many taste tests, Long Island's tap water was preferred over bottled water.
9. It requires 3X the amount of water to produce a plastic bottle as it does to fill the bottle.
10. It takes 17 million barrels of oil to produce plastic bottles yearly. This could fuel one million cars for a year.



## 2014 Water Usage Close Up:

**2014 TOTAL PUMPAGE:** 2,134,165,000 GALLONS

**PEAK DAY:** AUGUST 10: 14,037,000 GALLONS

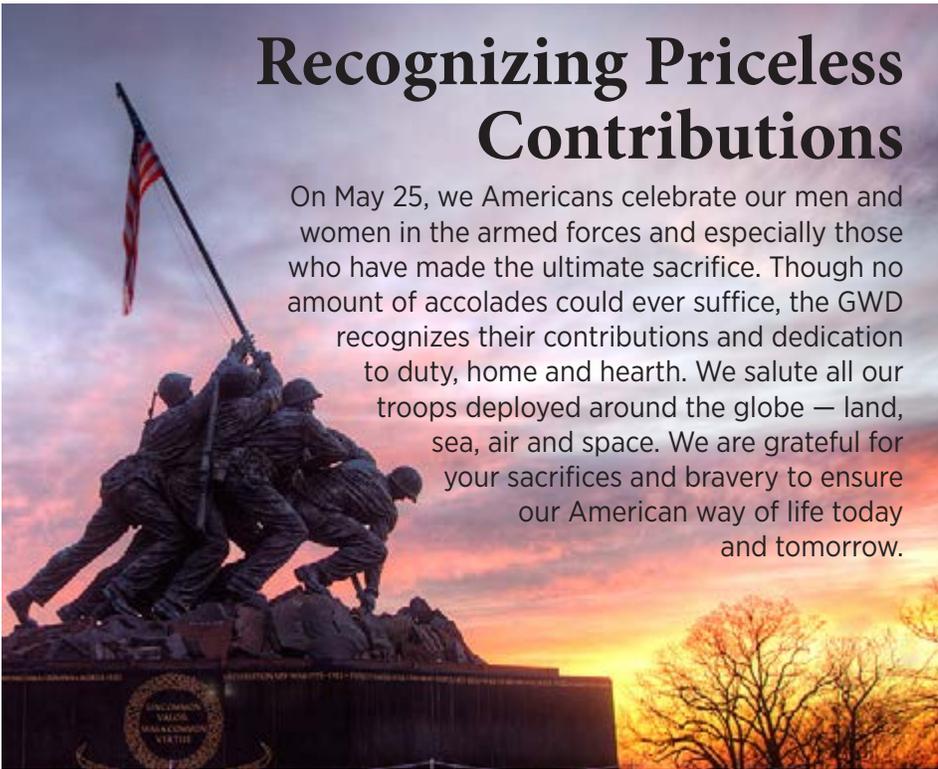
**PEAK MONTH:** AUGUST: 346,229,000 GALLONS

**LOWEST MONTH:** FEBRUARY: 88,627,000 GALLONS

Courtesy of the  
Nassau Suffolk Water  
Commissioners' Association  
<http://www.nswcawater.org>

# Recognizing Priceless Contributions

On May 25, we Americans celebrate our men and women in the armed forces and especially those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. Though no amount of accolades could ever suffice, the GWD recognizes their contributions and dedication to duty, home and hearth. We salute all our troops deployed around the globe — land, sea, air and space. We are grateful for your sacrifices and bravery to ensure our American way of life today and tomorrow.



## Election 2014 Results

**ON DECEMBER 9, 2014**, with nearly 600 votes cast, Greenlawn residents voted to re-elect Commissioner Bill Wieck to a three-year term as a Greenlawn Water District Water Commissioner. Mr. Wieck began his new term effective January 1, 2015, and will serve until December 31, 2017. A lifetime Greenlawn resident, Bill has a long history of community involvement with the Greenlawn Fire Department



and the GFD Rescue Squad. He is also a past Director of the NY Firefighters Burn Center Foundation. Mr. Wieck proudly served his country in the US Army as an MP in Korea and Germany.

## 2014 Drinking Water Quality Report

Now available online at:  
[www.greenlawnwater.org/water-report](http://www.greenlawnwater.org/water-report)

The four-page report is issued annually according to New York State regulations and includes a complete run down on the source, costs and treatment of GWD water. A Table Of Detected Parameters, Source Assessment and Proposed Water Systems Improvements are also included, along with suggested Water Conservation Measures.



Printed copies are also available at:

- Commack Public Library, 18 Hauppauge Road, Commack
- Elwood Public Library, 1929 Jericho Turnpike, Elwood
- Greenlawn Water District office, 45 Railroad Street, Greenlawn
- Harborfields Public Library, 31 Broadway, Greenlawn

## Know What's Below. Call 811 First!

Before the GWD digs, we contact the New York City/Long Island One Call Center to obtain underground "mark outs." All Suffolk County excavators and contractors must contact New York 811 and give at least two days' notice of intent to dig prior to beginning excavations. This is to ensure sufficient time for utilities to mark underground lines. Technicians mark all subsurface utilities with colored paints or flags.

For the record, here are what color-coded mark outs represent:



Should home or business owners notify the One Call Center before you excavate? Absolutely! It's free and could save you time, trouble and additional costs...not to mention avoid injury should you unexpectedly encounter an underground utility. So before you or your contractor plants a tree or digs a fence posthole, make sure you comply with the law. Call 811...for safety's sake.

OR VISIT ONLINE AT: [WWW.DIGSAFELYNEWYORK.COM](http://WWW.DIGSAFELYNEWYORK.COM)

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**Estimated Bills Are The Pits!**

Everyone wants 100% accurate meter readings, and by keeping your water meter pit clear, we can achieve that goal. Most water meters are located in a pit underneath a round iron cover, typically on the front lawn between your house and the street. GWD personnel open the pit cover to obtain readings or to investigate service calls...unless the meter pit is covered. Dirt, lawn clippings, leaves and bushes are the usual culprits!

In some older residential areas, meters are in the basement. We then send letters requesting access and an appointment. Without actual readings, we'll likely be unaware of any high water usage due to possible leaks. To save time and money, please keep meter pits and the surrounding area clear. Need instructions to find your water meter pit? Call us at (631) 261-0874.

**Managing**

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 and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and Suffolk County Department of Health regulatory requirements. Maintenance regularly includes inspection and replacement of pump assemblies and electric motors as needed."

**OUR WELLS AS MEDIA STARS?**

In a way that's true. Each well is video recorded. Specialized waterproof cameras are lowered into each well hole casing. The video inspections ensure that screens and well casings are intact and in good condition. Archiving of the videos provides a basis for comparison inspection after inspection.

**DUCTILE IRON VERSUS CAST IRON?**

Isn't iron just iron you might ask? Not in the water business. "Many of our water mains are cast iron," Commissioner John McLaughlin stated. "Installed largely between 1945 and 1965, cast iron mains provided

longevity, but eventually they become brittle. Now we use ductile iron because it adds reliability and flexibility. Typically, the pipes have protective linings to inhibit corrosion."



Well 3R located at Park Avenue and Stillwell is now online. The 650-foot deep well has a capacity of 1,380 gallons of water per minute.



Well #18 near Wicks Road and Larkfield Road is progressing according to schedule. With an ETA of Fall 2015, it will replace decommissioned Well #16 in the Commack pressure zone.