

FALL 2023

INFRASTRUCTURE: STAYING AHEAD OF THE CURVE



**Commissioner
John Clark**

Providing a plentiful supply of high quality potable water involves much more than meets the eye.

Commissioner John Clark explained “Greenlawn Water District wells and delivery systems are all regularly monitored and supported by a preventive maintenance program administered by a team of experienced professionals headed by Chief Plant Operator Frank DeMayo.

Our team regularly tests our water for more than 190 parameters, most of which are naturally occurring. Treatment is provided at all of our wells to improve the quality of the water before any of it is distributed to consumers. For example, groundwater on Long Island is naturally acidic and like most local suppliers, we adjust the

pH upward. We add sodium hydroxide, which is a base, to reduce corrosive action between water, water mains and household plumbing. Also, a small amount of chlorine is added. This acts as a disinfecting agent to prevent bacterial growth within the distribution system. We monitor water pH and chlorine levels daily through our SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system and through in-person inspections to ensure compliance with all local, state and federal regulations.”

Note: The Greenlawn Water District is an 11-TIME WINNER of the Suffolk County Best Tasting Tap Water Contest, including 2023.



THE STATE OF OUR WATER SYSTEMS

>> Well #6:



A preliminary treatment design has been initiated for the installation of a Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) system to remove Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs). The District has applied for a grant for partial cost relief.

>> Well #11:

Construction of an Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) system at the Pulaski Road, Greenlawn site, is underway. Currently in Phase II, treatment is identical in nature to Well #12 for the treatment of 1-4 Dioxane. A grant award of up to \$3 million was received. The system is expected to be online in late spring 2024.

>> Well #10 & Well #15:

Both wells are located on the same GWD property and have entered the preliminary design phase for treatment of PFAS. Treatment will entail installation of Granular Activated Carbon systems. The District has applied for emerging contaminants grants to treat PFAS and VOC contaminants in both wells.

>> Well #12:



The recently completed AOP treatment system is in service and performing to expectations. Groundwater pumped from this source is first treated through the use of UV lamps, followed by 80,000 pounds of Granular Activated Carbon. It is polished by the Packed Tower Aeration (PTA) air stripping system to lower 1,4-Dioxane levels below New York's strict standard of one part per billion, as well as to remove trace volatile organics.

THE TRUTH ABOUT “FOREVER CHEMICALS”: PFAS



PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, are a group of widely used, man-made chemicals sometimes called “forever chemicals” because they don’t break down, and they can accumulate in both the environment and the human body. Studies have found that PFAS may cause serious health problems, including cancer. PFAS chemicals have been produced since the 1940s but their health and environmental risks only gained widespread attention after the chemicals were found in drinking water in 2001. In the post-World War II Space Age era, these chemicals were regularly used in manufacturing products for stain resistance or non-stick coatings (e.g. Teflon). They are so prevalent that nearly all Americans have come in contact with them through water, food or consumer products.

The two most common and controversial PFAS are no longer made in the USA, but products made with or containing them may still be imported. Since they take an incredibly long time to break down and have been so widely used, scientists continue to find older PFAS in rivers, lakes and many US drinking water supplies. They are so prevalent that a researcher told NPR in 2019 that just about everyone in America has some of these chemicals in their blood.

PFAS have negative health effects and need to be removed from water, and that is what the Greenlawn Water District, along with virtually every other Long Island water supplier who pumps from our aquifers, is doing.

5 FACTS ABOUT PFAS:

The group includes roughly 5,000 different chemicals.

They are found in consumer goods, food and drinking water.

More than 16 million Americans drink water contaminated with PFAS from military or industrial sites.

A 2015 study estimated that PFAS are present in the blood of 97 percent of Americans.

As PFAS use has declined, so have levels of it in blood.

Make sure to speak to your doctor if you suspect PFAS exposure.

HELP OUR HOMETOWN HEROES



The men and women who serve in our local fire departments are some of the best that can be found anywhere in the country. “Their dedication, skills and bravery are constantly tested, so as citizens it is vitally important to support them in every way we can,” Commissioner John Clark observed. “Lives depend on fast fire hydrant access. Drifting and plowed snow can hide hydrants and ice can damage them. Every resident can help our hometown heroes by keeping fire hydrants clear of snow and ice in winter and free from encroaching bushes year round. Adopt the hydrant nearest you because the life you save may be your own. And notify us if you see damaged, leaning or broken hydrants, and we’ll make sure they are attended to, asap.”

MILESTONES

Congratulations on a half century of service!

The Board of Commissioners of the Greenlawn Water District proudly recognizes the contributions of Superintendent Bob Santoriello. Born and raised in Elwood, Bob recently celebrated 51 years with the District. As GWD Superintendent since 1991, he has overseen all infrastructure projects, thereby ensuring the future of the community. Bob has also been an industry leader, having served as Chairman of the Long Island Water Conference (LIWC). Bob continues to apply a lifetime of scientific and hands-on knowledge for the benefit of all GWD residents. On behalf of all of us at the Greenlawn Water District, we recognize and thank Bob for a distinguished career of service to the public.



BE PREPARED FOR Old Man Winter!



Commissioner
Jim Logan

Even in a warming climate, Long Islanders must be prepared for another one of our unpredictable winters. The following 12 Tips can help you get through the expected and the unexpected.

Winters can be brutally tough on homes, and Old Man Winter's icy cold breath can create a lot of expensive damage. It's basically all physics. When water freezes, it expands. Ice is anathema to water pipes regardless of their materials. The resulting expansion of water within pipes into ice produces pressure within the pipes. This can cause bursting, plumbing bills and emergency visits from your local water supplier. It's best to try and avoid these unsolicited, unwelcome events so here are time-proven ways to minimize potential damages from Old Man Winter.



1. Get an accurate overall picture of your water situation. Examine the condition of your buildings starting with the plumbing. Identify those pipes that will be most affected or are most vulnerable to freezing. They are likely the ones located outside your house. Then check all inside outside walls and windows, and look for uninsulated pipes and pipes installed near unheated spaces. It is also important to check for any cracks or openings in walls, floors and ceilings. Caulking will help to keep cold air from entering those gaps and affecting your pipes and raising your heating bills!
2. Uh oh! Things happen! Always know the location where your shut-off valve and water pipes are located in case of emergency.
3. Pipes in unheated areas can become problems in cold weather. Insulate all water pipes in unheated areas to prevent freezing and subsequent thawing and bursting. Foam insulation works well. This insulation can also reduce the amount of water that must be run before hot water is discharged from faucets or showers.
4. Disconnect and drain all outside hoses to prevent freezing. Outdoor hoses should be stored where they will not freeze to prevent cracking. Replacing hoses can be expensive!
5. Turn off all outside spigots from inside your house. Then drain the lines and leave the spigots open.
6. Foam insulation covers are available for use with outside spigots. They are inexpensive and can be extremely helpful.
7. Check out heat tape. This is often used for pipes, as it is an effective method for winterizing plumbing. However, be aware that additional hazards must be considered. The U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission website has safety recommendations for those homeowners using heat tapes to help prevent fires.
8. Shut down and thoroughly drain all lawn sprinkler systems.
9. Check meter pit covers to assure that they are securely bolted down and intact. Any problems in this area should be immediately reported to the GWD service department.
10. To help safeguard pipes, especially in uninsulated areas, open any cabinet doors under sinks, particularly those located on outside walls. This allows the warmer room air to help prevent freezing.
11. For your own safety and the safety of the public, firemen and EMTs, please keep fire hydrants free from snow and ice accumulation as well as debris. Visible hydrants can be readily accessed. Every second counts when there is a fire, for yourself, your family, your house or office, and for firefighters and EMTs.
12. Attention snowbirds! If you are snow birding to warmer climates or going away for a lengthy time during the winter, consider fully winterizing your home or business for safety's sake. Speak to your plumber regarding how to properly achieve this.

Reprinted courtesy of the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association (NSWCA).



Board of Commissioners

John H. Clark, Chairman
jclark@greenlawnwater.org
John T. McLaughlin, Treasurer
jmclaughlin@greenlawnwater.org
James M. Logan, Secretary
jlogan@greenlawnwater.org

Superintendent

Robert Santoriello
bob@greenlawnwater.org

Chief Plant Operator

Frank DeMayo
frank@greenlawnwater.org

Office Manager

Melissa Hachikian
melissah@greenlawnwater.org

Proudly designed & produced by
Progressive Marketing Group, Inc.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

Veterans Day, November 11, is a federal holiday meant to honor all veterans of the uniformed services who served or are still serving during times of peace as well as war. The solemn day originated as Armistice Day commemorating the cessation of hostilities in the Great War, on the 11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour in 1918.

The red poppy came to symbolize the blood shed by those who fought in that war and those who continue to fight for our country to this very day. It has been the official flower of the American Legion Family since 1920.



Commissioner
John McLaughlin

To all those brave men and women, including our own Commissioner John McLaughlin who proudly served our nation in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war, we salute you for your dedication and service.