



# WEST HEMPSTEAD WATER DISTRICT

# H<sub>2</sub>O REPORT

A PUBLICATION OF THE WEST HEMPSTEAD WATER DISTRICT

[www.westhempsteadwater.org](http://www.westhempsteadwater.org)

## CONSERVATION & COMPLIANCE

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) recently announced a mandate calling for a 15 percent reduction in water usage over the next several years. The West Hempstead Water District applauds the initiative.

"We have had a comprehensive conservation program in place for many years," Commissioner C. John Sparacio said. "Starting with scheduled infrastructure inspections, the program also includes evaluations and proactive maintenance of our 75 miles of water mains, our three storage tanks and the District's 553 fire hydrants."

Within the last year, the district also called in a leak detection firm that used specialized sound equipment that "listened" underground to our mains, service connections and hydrants to determine if there were any undetectable leaks occurring anywhere within the District's boundaries.

"The protocols that we have implemented are proof of our commitment to conservation and compliance with the DEC," Commissioner Sparacio said, "but we also need the help of the District's 32,000 residents to have the highest effect possible when it comes to saving water. This means following Nassau County guidelines regarding lawn watering (no watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and abiding by the odd/even house number rule), as well as simple practices such as taking shorter showers and checking for leaks in your home."



Commissioner C. John Sparacio

## Conservation Simplified



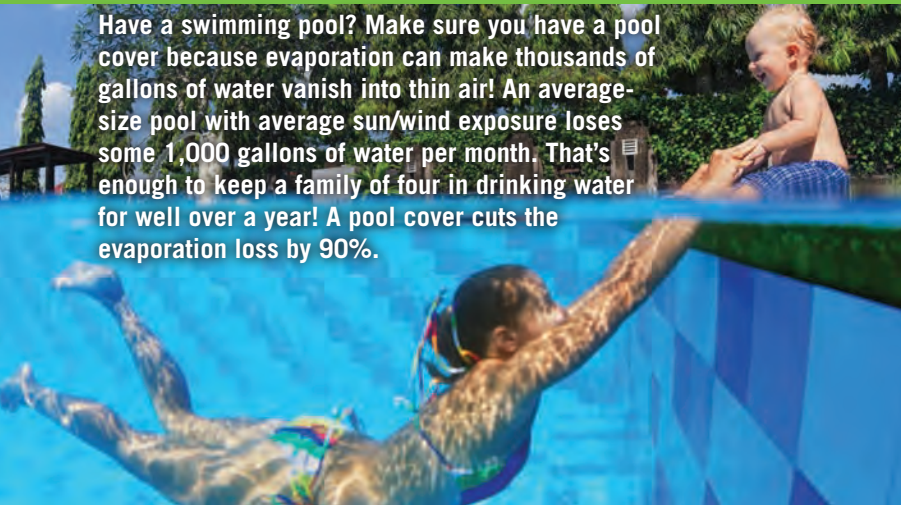
Did you know that less than one percent (1%) of the treated water delivered by utilities is used for drinking? The rest goes on lawns, in washing machines, in dishwashers, is used for showering, cooking and flushing of toilets. In the summer, water usage skyrockets and can quadruple during significant hot spells. Here are seven ways the residents of the West Hempstead Water District can help conserve our most precious resource:

- 1 Leaks are wasteful and costly. Check spigot, hose and sprinkler system connections regularly for leaks.
- 2 Groundcover plants require less water. Daylilies, monarda, lavender, clematis, zinnias and marigolds will star in your garden.
- 3 Keep your lawn approximately 2-3 inches long. This reduces evaporation and requires less water.
- 4 Composting boosts water retention...and gives plantings some extra nutrient oomph!
- 5 Instead of hosing your driveway, patio, or sidewalk, sweep and you'll save water.
- 6 Leave lawn clippings on the lawn to increase water retention.
- 7 A slow-drip irrigation system avoids over-watering and saves money on your water bill.

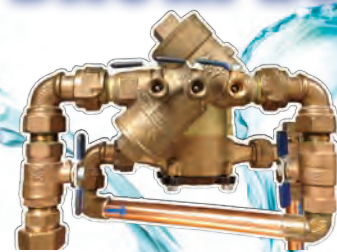
Everyone that lives in our district is dependent on the sole source aquifer under Long Island. Please encourage your family to use only the amount of water that they actually need.

## Attention Pool Owners

Have a swimming pool? Make sure you have a pool cover because evaporation can make thousands of gallons of water vanish into thin air! An average-size pool with average sun/wind exposure loses some 1,000 gallons of water per month. That's enough to keep a family of four in drinking water for well over a year! A pool cover cuts the evaporation loss by 90%.



## BACKFLOW



Backflow devices protect the water supply from possible contamination. If you have a sprinkler system or swimming pool, the installation of a backflow device is mandatory; as are annual inspections...it's the law! For more information, contact the West Hempstead Water District Office, the Nassau County Department of Health, New York State Department of Health, or e-mail the Bureau of Water Supply Protection at [h20cert@health.state.ny.us](mailto:h20cert@health.state.ny.us).

## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

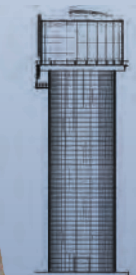
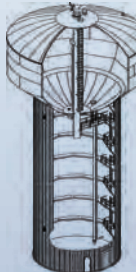
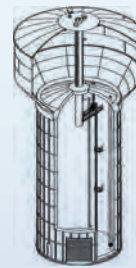
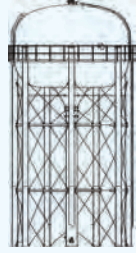
### New Tank. Changing Times.

**It's time.** While our cherished water tank at Birch Street has been one of West Hempstead's signature landmarks for close to 80 years, it has reached the end of its useful service life and needs to be replaced.

Built in 1939, the timeworn 750,000 gallon tank will be replaced with a state-of-the-art, one million gallon capacity tank that will benefit the residents of the District for many decades into the future.

"Construction of a new tank is more prudent and more cost effective than rehabilitating the existing tank," Superintendent Robert P. York said. "Another elevated tank will be selected as it offers greater benefits to public health and property protection."

The newly passed (Town of Hempstead) \$8.4 million bond dedicates \$6.9 million for the new tank. Bids will be invited later in 2017 and construction is likely to begin in 2018.



### The Process for Construction of a New Tank

1. Bonding
2. Determination of tank style
3. Design and report approval by the Nassau County Department of Health
4. Bidding
5. Construction

### Other Forthcoming Improvements

- 7th Street storage tank overcoating.
- New caustic tank at 7th Street will replace the existing 30-year-old tank. This tank replacement is mandated by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Security upgrades. New alarm and video systems for the Birch Street administration building, all pump stations and 7th Street facility.
- District roadways, parking facility and sidewalk repaving.
- Replacement of exterior pump stations' facades.



SUPERINTENDENT ROBERT P. YORK

# FACTS ABOUT 1,4 Dioxane



## 1. What is 1,4-Dioxane?

1,4-Dioxane is a synthetic chemical used as a solvent and as a chlorinated solvent stabilizer. It is used in a variety of applications including inks and adhesives. It is pervasive in everyday household products such as cosmetics, shampoos, and dishwashing soap, which is why it is considered an issue for water supply systems.

## 2. No Long Island Water Provider Exceeds the New York State Department of Health Standard of 50 parts per billion (ppb).

Currently there is no chemical-specific Federal or New York State drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane. However, it is regulated as an Unspecified Organic Contaminant by the NYS Department of Health at a maximum contaminant level (standard) of 50 parts per billion (ppb).

## 3. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The EPA established a lifetime health advisory of 200 ppb for 1,4-Dioxane in drinking water (EPA 2012). In addition, the EPA has estimated the concentration of 1,4-dioxane in water corresponding to an increased lifetime cancer risk of one-in-a-million, assuming consumption of 2 liters of water per day for a lifetime (70 years), which is 0.35 ppb. This health-protective criterion is often used as a non-regulatory benchmark for minimal risk.

## 4. Will the EPA set a Standard for 1,4-Dioxane?

That is yet to be determined. The EPA regularly reviews drinking water standards as new science becomes available and is currently reviewing new 1,4-Dioxane health effects information.

Once the review is completed, the EPA will carefully review the conclusions and consider all relevant information to determine whether a drinking water standard for 1,4-Dioxane is needed.

For more information on West Hempstead Water District water quality, please see our 2016 Drinking Water Quality Report on our website at [westhempsteadwater.org](http://westhempsteadwater.org)



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### Board of Commissioners

Chairman: C. John Sparacio  
Treasurer: Joseph M. Marando  
Secretary: Kenneth P. Wenthen, Jr.  
Superintendent: Robert P. York  
Secretary to the Board: Frederick L. Kurz

### Board Meetings

Meetings are held at the District Office each Wednesday at 5:00 PM. Meetings are open to the public.

Office Hours 8:30AM – 4:30PM

### Memberships:

AWWA: American Water Works Association  
AWWANY: American Water Works Association New York Section  
LIWC: Long Island Water Conference  
NSWCA: Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association