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Bethpage Water District

25 Adams Avenue
Bethpage, NY 11714

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

William J. Ellinger, Chairperson
John R. Sullivan, Treasurer
Gary S. Bretton, Secretary

Michael J. Boufis, Superintendent

Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., weekdays
24-Hour Emergency Number: (516) 931-0093

www.bethpagewater.com

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Watering Ordinances – Don't Forget About Watering Your Lawn

With warmer weather upon us, please take some time and familiarize yourself with a few of the Nassau County Ordinances that must be observed.

- Lawn and garden watering is prohibited between 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. year round.
- Water your lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Even-numbered addresses and non-numbered homes can water on even-numbered days; odd-numbered addresses can water on odd-numbered days.
- The use of a hose for flushing driveways, sidewalks and streets is prohibited. Use a broom rather than a hose to clean sidewalks or driveways.
- All hoses must be equipped with a spring-loaded nozzle.



Spring 2010

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT



STATE COURTS RULE BETHPAGE MUST CHLORINATE WATER SUPPLY:

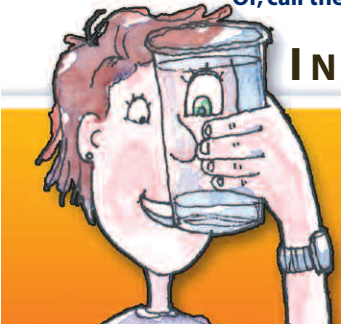
For over 85 years, diligent, proactive measures have enabled Bethpage Water District to deliver excellent water quality to the residents and businesses we serve. We continually met and still meet the Nassau County Department of Health's increased testing requirements without violation. However, effective June 1, 2010, the Nassau County Department of Health's mandate to chlorinate will go into effect. The BWD put up a hard-fought court battle against chlorination. Despite this, the court ruled that the introduction of sodium hypochlorite (chlorine) into the distribution system was required.

As of January 1, 2008, water districts that serve a population in excess of 3,301 people were no longer eligible for a Disinfection Waiver (this waiver previously excluded BWD from having to chlorinate our water supply). From that time on, the District has been presenting our case against chlorination through legal proceedings. The Nassau County Department of Health (NCDOH) stated that this initiative is based on Federal Homeland Security's guidance regarding public water system preparedness. The NCDOH has used this guidance to deny the long-standing Disinfection Waiver enjoyed by Bethpage for decades.

Chlorine is a widely used disinfectant that kills bacteria and other microbes in water. Ninety-nine percent of water suppliers throughout the country chlorinate their water. Chlorine is not harmful in the authorized concentrations. However, the addition of chlorine may alter the taste of the water that you are long accustomed to, and there may be a slight odor when the chlorine is first introduced into the water system. Once stabilized, any taste or odor due to the chlorine should be minimal.

Remember, the water is safe to drink and not harmful by any means. However, if you have an aquarium at home, do not provide tap water directly to it.

Residents who wish to learn more about this chlorination directive may contact the Nassau County Department of Health Drinking Water Support Line at (516) 227-9692. Or, call the Bethpage Water District directly at (516) 931-0093.



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Capital Improvement Program

The Bethpage Water District has actively been making upgrades and improvements throughout the District. Through our Capital Improvement Program, the following projects will commence or be completed this year.

- Work to Plant 4 will include one new air stripping tower and six Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filters. This project will help with the removal of volatile organic compounds and will ensure our customers the highest quality of water at the lowest cost.
- BWD also upgraded its fuel capacity by constructing a larger, emergency standby power fuel tank in case of a power failure.
- Nitrate Removal Plant 1 – This system will be an ion exchange system that will remove nitrates and perchlorates from two wells. The water will also be processed through GAC filters to remove any volatile organic compounds. The start of this state-of-the-art treatment facility will begin in the fall.
- Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) is a computerized control system that will allow the District to operate its entire system under optimal conditions. This system will provide our staff with a virtual window into the “minute-by-minute” operation of all the facilities. This system will monitor and alert the employees of any changes in pressure, flow or chemical levels. BWD will also be installing 24-hour security cameras at all of the District’s facilities.



Carbon filters being lowered into the ground at Plant 4.



Message from the Superintendent

Greetings! On behalf of the Commissioners, the District and myself, we thank our customers for supporting the new electronic bill structure. We have received many nice compliments and appreciate the kind words. We hope this new system will be more convenient and efficient.

Additionally, I commend the residents who took extra time to shovel out hydrants this winter. It’s nice to see that we can all work together and that’s what being a “community” is all about.

The BWD would not be a well-organized and resourceful municipality if it were not for our outstanding field crew. The staff is on call 24/7/365 to respond to any call or emergency need. I thank our crew who worked diligently and reliably during one of the harshest winters Long Island has experienced in decades. During the start of the blizzard on February 10, 2010, BWD experienced two large water main breaks in which the crew fought the elements to repair quickly and accurately.

On April 21, I had the privilege of speaking at the New York State AWWA meeting in Saratoga Springs, NY regarding perchlorate removal and how the Bethpage Water District implemented the first Perchlorate System in the State. Our system won the “2009 Excellence Award” from the American Council of Engineering Companies of NY (ACES).



Water main break on Lex Ave. Pictured (L to R): David, Michael and Frank. Operating the backhoe was William.



Pictured (L to R): Winner, Bethpage Water Commissioners John Sullivan, Gary Bretton and William Ellinger hold award-winning description of the Perchlorate System.



“I’m honored to announce that I’ve been elected Secretary of The Long Island Water Conference, as well as the Long Island Co-chair for WARN (Water/Waste Water Agency Response Network). I will serve both appointments with great pride and plan to fully represent our District.”

— Michael J. Boufis
Superintendent

The Value of Bethpage Water

Many people underestimate the true value of our great tasting tap water. Here are a few items that may surprise and interest you...

- ▶ An eight-ounce glass of water can be refilled at least 15,000 times for the same price as a six-pack of soda.
- ▶ Research of bottled water has shown that it is not purer than standard tap water, however, it will cost you A LOT more...about 1,900% more to be exact.
- ▶ Tap water must meet extremely stringent standards and water quality is tested annually for more than 100 contaminants.
- ▶ One gallon of tap water costs less than one tenth of one cent compared to one gallon of bottled water which ranges from \$1.43 to \$8.00!

Backflow Devices Must Be Tested!

Every calendar year, NYS mandates the testing of backflow prevention devices. Bethpage Water District will do this FREE of charge for our residential customers, from January 1st through August 31st. If your device needs to be tested after August 31st, BWD will perform the test but for a nominal \$25.00 service fee. Please call the District office to set up an appointment for a time you can provide access to one of our certified testers.

This service does not have to be performed by the BWD staff, you can hire an outside certified tester. If you use an independent certified tester, please make sure all paperwork is forwarded to the District’s main office at 25 Adams Ave. District hours are 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

