

# Water Connection

SPRING 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE BETHPAGE WATER DISTRICT

BethpageWater.org

## A Message From Your Commissioners *Carbon Polishing Units Keeping Drinking Water Safe for Residents*

Everyone here at the Bethpage Water District is proud of the accomplishments we've achieved in these last few months. As part of our mission to deliver an uninterrupted supply of the best quality drinking water to our consumers, we are continually updating, upgrading and improving our existing facilities and infrastructure.

The District commissioners, superintendent and staff work closely with county, state and federal agencies to ensure that our groundwater is tested thoroughly. Among the ways we do this is through the use of carbon polishing units, which is a secondary filtering process used to further purify water as it passes through the carbon filters. This advanced filtering process is used at our wells most affected by the Northrop Grumman plume. Through these and other state-of-the-art treatment methods, our drinking water continues to meet the highest standards in the world.

We want to thank you for your continued support, and we're here to make sure that the entire community enjoys clean water for generations to come. With the summer months around the corner, keep Nassau County water ordinances in mind and please stay informed by visiting our website [www.bethpagewater.com](http://www.bethpagewater.com), connecting with us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BethpageW](http://www.facebook.com/BethpageW), following us on Twitter at @BethpageW or simply by giving us a call at 516-931-0093.

We update our pages regularly to keep you, our consumers, up-to-date with the latest news and information from the Bethpage Water District. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Have a happy and healthy summer,  
The Bethpage Water District Board of Commissioners

## GREATER WATER CAPACITY AHEAD FOR RESIDENTS!

The Bethpage Water District is currently installing a new transmission water main to allow water to be pumped from a new well that the District has drilled outside of the plume. The transmission main has been strategically placed along the best route to deliver water to the community.

"The integration of the transmission water main into our infrastructure will allow the Bethpage Water District to increase pressure and capacity, particularly in the north-east portion of the district," said Commissioner Gary S. Bretton. "Our mission is to continue to bring our residents the purest quality of drinking water possible along with the exemplary service they deserve."

We are currently notifying residents in the immediate area in the form of street signs and door tags. Each customer will receive 24-hour advance notice in the event that service will be briefly interrupted. The area impacted is on and around Haypath Road, from Tennis Court to Cindy Drive. It also includes Cindy Drive and South Park Drive. If you live on these roads, or nearby, your service may be temporarily interrupted, but be assured that you will be notified 24 hours prior.



*District personnel install water main at the intersection of Haypath Rd and Lent Dr.*

## How to Read Your Water Statement

The Bethpage Water District conducts more than 10,000 water-quality tests for more than 130 parameters and contaminants, of which, 115 have been undetected in the drinking water supply. When reading your water statement, it is important to keep some terms in mind to best understand its components.

- **Contaminants:** Any impurity found in water. Most are naturally occurring and not harmful. Others are man-made and can be harmful at high exposure levels. Please visit the USEPA website at [www.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index](http://www.epa.gov/drink/contaminants/index) for information about contaminants found in drinking water.
- **Inorganic Compounds:** Inorganic compounds are non-biological organisms. Essential metallic elements commonly found naturally occurring in groundwater due to the weathering of rocks, minerals and pipes. Compounds such as including iron, zinc, sodium, calcium and nickel, are inorganic compounds.
- **Volatile Organic Compounds:** VOCs come found in products including plastic, refrigerants, gasoline, solvents, paints and dry-cleaning fluids. When improperly disposed, VOCs may be released into the environment, and any amount that does not evaporate into the atmosphere may seep into the soil when it rains. VOCs do not naturally occur in groundwater and are the consequence of industrial waste disposal. In the instance of the Bethpage Water District, pollutants comprising the Northrop Grumman plume, such as Trichloroethene (TCE), have been detected in the groundwater, but are removed in drinking water.
- **Parts-Per-Billion (ppb):** One ppb represents one-billionth of a gram, per gram of the sample. It is also represented as one microgram per liter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$ ). So, one gallon in a billion would be one gallon in a reservoir sized at one square mile and 5 feet deep.
- **Parts-Per-Trillion (ppt):** One ppt represents one-trillionth of a gram, per gram of the same. It is also represented as one nanogram per liter ( $\text{ng}/\text{L}$ ). To contextualize, an Olympic swimming pool contains approximately 50 billion drops of water. A part-per-trillion would be one drop in 20 Olympic-size swimming pools.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL):** The highest level of a substance allowed in drinking water.
- **Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG):** The level of a substance in drinking water below which there is no known risk to health.



# Groundwater vs. Drinking Water

## UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN "RAW" GROUNDWATER AND "FINISHED" DRINKING WATER

The mission of the Bethpage Water District, along with delivering high-quality water at consistently low costs, is the health and safety of the community water supply. Drinking water providers, including all of us at the Bethpage Water District, have an especially significant interest in providing safe water of the highest quality because all of us, our families and our friends, are drinking the same water.

To understand the role that the Bethpage Water District plays in extracting, purifying and delivering water to your homes, it's imperative to clear up the misconception of interchanging the term "ground" water with "drinking" water, as they are two very different things.

The source of Long Island's drinking water comes from groundwater pumped out of our aquifer system, which holds approximately 80 trillion gallons of water hundreds of feet underground. The quality of groundwater varies depending on numerous factors: where you are on the Island, the underground geology of the area, and what the use of the land in the area has been like (residential, farming, industrial). In Bethpage, past industrial practices and on-site septic systems have caused a degradation of our "ground" water.

To convert groundwater to drinking water, the Bethpage Water District understands the "raw" quality of the groundwater and processes it to make a "finished" water quality that goes to the tap. The public never receives the raw water, only the finished water. Relate this to the milk you buy in the supermarket. Cow's milk in the "raw" form can contain harmful viruses and bacteria, but that's not the milk you buy. You buy milk that is processed by pasteurization to remove harmful viruses and bacteria, thereby protecting your health. The "raw" and "finished" distinctions are vital in understanding the quality of the water you drink.

The raw groundwater extracted from our wells is not what you are drinking. The Bethpage Water District goes to great lengths to improve water quality through treatment processes. State-of-the-art advanced treatment removes contaminants VOCs and nitrates. These processes include activated carbon adsorption, adsorbing impurities out of groundwater; aeration, stripping organics out of groundwater; and ion exchange, removing anions such as nitrates out of groundwater.

Since the late 1980s, we have been investing in our infrastructure and installing such treatment processes to provide clean and safe drinking water. So, be as confident as us at the Water District that your water is perfectly safe to drink.

Don't let misinformation lead you to mistrust Bethpage's public drinking water. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Bethpage Water District at [bethpagewater.org](http://bethpagewater.org), connect with us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/BethpageWaterDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/BethpageWaterDistrict) or follow us on Twitter at [@BethpageW](https://twitter.com/BethpageW). For more information about the source of your drinking water, visit [http://water.epa.gov/drink/guide/upload/book\\_waterontap\\_full.pdf](http://water.epa.gov/drink/guide/upload/book_waterontap_full.pdf).



***"By testing to the level of parts-per-trillion, the Bethpage Water District goes well beyond what regulations call for."***

*- Commissioner John R. Sullivan*



**Bethpage Water District**  
25 Adams Avenue  
Bethpage, NY 11714

PRESORT  
FIRST CLASS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT NO. 50  
BETHPAGE, NY

**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

[bethpagewater.com](http://bethpagewater.com)

For the latest, follow us at:  
[Facebook.com/BethpageWaterDistrict](https://Facebook.com/BethpageWaterDistrict)  
[Twitter.com/BethpageW](https://Twitter.com/BethpageW)



## Superintendent Honored



*Superintendent  
Michael J. Boufis*

The Bethpage Water District Board of Commissioners is proud to announce that Superintendent Michael J. Boufis has been awarded the New York Section American Water Works (NYSAWWA) Operator's Meritorious Service Award. The gold-standard award for the drinking water industry, the NYSAWWA selects an individual each year that demonstrates dedication and provides an outstanding contribution in the service of the residents within their service area.

"I am honored to have been given this award," said Mr. Boufis. "Rest assured that I, along with the entire Bethpage Water District staff, will continue to work hard to provide this essential service to every household throughout the community at one of the lowest costs in the nation."

As superintendent, Mr. Boufis oversees all the day-to-day operations relating to the Bethpage Water District. Additionally, he drives the interest of the District to the regulators responsible for the treatment and remediation efforts for the Northrop Grumman-U.S. Navy plume, one of the largest groundwater plumes in the country. Under his leadership, the District has implemented cutting-edge water quality monitoring equipment and testing procedures to ensure the continued safety of Bethpage's water supply.

Mr. Boufis has more than 25 years of experience in the water industry. He is an active member of the American Water Works Association (AWWA), immediate past chairman of the Long Island Water Conference (LIWC) and serves as Long Island's regional chair for the New York Water Agency Response Network (NYWARN).