



# Watergram

Westbury Water District

Spring 2008

## Chlorination Start-Up Completed

Despite NO bacteriological or health department violations, the Westbury Water District was required by the Nassau County Department of Health to begin adding chlorine to the public drinking water on April 1 of this year. Although the water utility has consistently received a chlorination waiver from the county since 1972, changes to federal and state regulations as well as Homeland Security guidelines have made a waiver unattainable in Westbury — due mainly to the large population served by the district. Now, only public water purveyors that serve fewer than 3,301 people are eligible for the exemption; Westbury Water serves a population of 20,500.

Despite the waiver, the district has historically been required by the health department to have the necessary equipment and supplies in place, in the event an emergency situation called for immediate chlorination. For this reason, plant operators are fully trained and licensed to handle the chemicals for their safety as well as the health and safety of those who drink the water.

In fact, when the district received the chlorination notice, it was in the process of updating

and changing its existing backup chlorination system over to one that is more in line with current standards. For this reason, the original deadline of January 1 was extended to April 1, to allow the improvement project to be completed before Westbury Water began introducing chlorine to the drinking water.

“Although adding chlorine alters the taste of the water, most individuals will notice that their palette  
*(cont. on page 8)*



*Westbury Water District Superintendent John R. Ingram (second from left) is joined by (left to right) Commissioners Kenneth O. Jones, Vincent Abbatiello and William C. Olson in checking on one of the utility's chlorinators. District Consulting Engineer William Merklin, of Dvirka and Bartilucci, also visited the well site.*

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[www.westburywaterdistrict.com](http://www.westburywaterdistrict.com)

# Well 7A Refurbishment Underway

The rehabilitation of Westbury Water District's Well 7A is one of several necessary capital improvement projects the district is undertaking in the next several years. The work, which began recently, entails fitting the well with a new screen. This filtering device is attached to the bottom of the well casing, which is situated deep into the earth to keep the bore-hole open and to maintain the integrity of the well.

The screen allows the pumped water to pass through, while keeping sand and gravel away from the pump and out of the drinking water. Gravel packing, a natural stone that is crushed to specifications, surrounds the screen as an initial barrier to prevent sand from getting into the casing, which is a permanent passageway to the aquifer in which the pump sits.



(left to right) Westbury Water Commissioner Vincent Abbatiello, District Consulting Engineer William Merklin, of Dvirka and Bartilucci, Superintendent John R. Ingram and Commissioners Kenneth O. Jones and William C. Olson stop by Well 7A to check on the progress of its redevelopment project.



## Hydrant Reminder

“Be aware that no one is authorized to use a fire hydrant without permission from the Westbury Water District,” Commissioner Vincent Abbatiello reminded consumers. “If you notice someone handling a hydrant or any unusual activity on or near water district property, please notify us immediately at (516) 333-0427 so the situation can be addressed.”

## Sprinkling Regulations

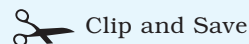


The use of water for irrigation purposes on lawns, shrubs, trees, plants and vegetation of any type is regulated by Nassau County ordinances. **Absolutely no watering is allowed from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Watering is permitted during all other hours under the following conditions:

1. Even-numbered properties and premises without numbers may be watered on even dates.
2. Residents with odd house numbers may water on odd dates.

These regulations apply to both automatic and time-controlled sprinkler systems as well as manually-operated hose sprinkling. Remember, the district does not wish to restrict the use of water, but we do want to stop the waste of this valuable resource.

**Use Only What You Need!**



# Emergency Contact Information Sought

**A**lthough there was no emergency, Westbury Water District officials recently made a decision to access the services of its new automated reverse-911 system provider. It was used in early April to give the public a courtesy reminder of the Nassau County Health Department's initiative that required the district to begin adding chlorine to the drinking water. Approximately 24-hours before the chemical was introduced, a pre-recorded notification was forwarded to published residential phone numbers throughout the water supplier's five-square-mile distribution system. Unpublished numbers are also available for district use, should there be an emergency situation. All contact information is kept strictly confidential.

To make the system more effective in the future, customers of the water



district are now able to list three additional contact phone numbers or email addresses to be entered into the notification data base. These can include land lines, cell phones or email addresses; voice or text messaging can be specified. A form is available at the district's administrative office or by logging onto [www.westburywaterdistrict.com](http://www.westburywaterdistrict.com).

"By noting the most effective ways to be reached, consumers can help the district meet its goal of alerting residents as quickly as possible in the event of a water emergency," pointed out Water Commissioner Kenneth Jones. "We encourage everyone to take advantage of the options being offered, so we can better serve you."



**T**o rid your drinking water of the taste and smell of chlorine, leave an uncovered pitcher of water in the refrigerator overnight. Chlorine is a gas and will evaporate during that time. If you choose to use a filter, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Filters that are not changed frequently can become breeding grounds for bacteria, which can get picked up as the water passes through and inadvertently get ingested.

## S.T.O.P. to Protect Aquifers

Keeping hazardous household waste out of the regular trash and disposing of it in an environmentally safe manner keeps it out of the aquifers and helps protect the drinking water for future generations.

Westbury Water District consumers are encouraged to participate in the Town of North Hempstead's S.T.O.P. (Stop Throwing Out Pollutants) program at the drop-off locations listed below. Call the town's S.T.O.P. Hotline at (516) 767-4600 for more details.

### Saturday, June 7

Solid Waste Management Authority Building  
802 West Shore Road (next to Harbor Links golf course)  
Port Washington

### Saturday, September 6

Michael J. Tully Park/ Indoor Pool  
1801 Evergreen Avenue (off Denton Avenue)  
New Hyde Park

### Sunday, November 9

Solid Waste Management Authority Building  
802 West Shore Road (next to Harbor Links golf course)  
Port Washington

*Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

[www.westburywaterdistrict.com](http://www.westburywaterdistrict.com)

Superintendent  
John R. Ingram

Vincent Abbatiello, Treasurer  
Kenneth O. Jones, Secretary  
William C. Olson, Chairman

Board of Commissioners

(516) 333-0427

Westbury, NY 11590-3037  
160 Drexel Ave.

Westbury Water District

PRE-SORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 18  
WESTBURY, NY 11590

## Water Mains Now to be Flushed

When chlorine is introduced to the drinking water, it becomes necessary to periodically flush the water mains and fire hydrants throughout the water district. This rids the pipes of any iron deposits that may be present. Unfortunately, when the mineral breaks loose, it can show up in the drinking water, causing it to appear rusty.

Although iron occurs naturally in the water on Long Island and does not pose a health risk, it is aesthetically displeasing and can leave a residue on clothing washed in hot water. For this reason, it is advised to avoid running the washing machine when the water mains are being flushed. If rusty water appears at the tap, simply run the faucet until the water runs clear.

The Westbury Water District will utilize its reverse 911 system to notify residents of any upcoming water main flushing activity in their area.

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## Chlorination Start-up

*(cont. from page 1)*

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will soon become accustomed to the taste,” explained Water Commissioner and Chairman William Olson. “While we were not in favor of introducing chlorine and disappointed with the initiative, we had no choice in the matter and understand the county’s need to put forth this effort in the interest of public health and safety.

“We thank the public for their cooperation and understanding as we continue to adjust the amounts of chlorine to reach optimum levels throughout the system,” Olson continued. “With modern tablet chlorinators in place, we are confident that, with minor adjustments, we will achieve uniform dispersal.”

Chlorine levels are monitored 24/7 by the district’s state-of-the-art SCADA computer technology, which continuously provides water plant operators with exacting data regarding the utility’s wells, plant sites and distribution system.