



Watergram



Westbury Water District

Spring 2011

Celebrate Your Drinking Water

Each year, during the first week in May, the Westbury Water District joins other water professionals in Nassau-Suffolk and throughout the U.S. in recognition of National Drinking Water Week. Spearheaded by the American Water Works Association for more than 35 years, the occasion provides water professionals and the communities they serve a unique opportunity to join together in recognition of the vital role a safe reliable supply of drinking water plays in our daily lives.

"While we are always mindful of the clean abundant source of water available to us in this marketplace, it's important to set aside some time each year to remind ourselves of that," explained Westbury Water District Commissioner and Chairman William C. Olson. "The added occasion of our 100th anniversary makes the 2011 Water Week celebration even more significant."

Part of that educational effort includes encouraging the public to protect and preserve the water supply so it can be enjoyed by future generations.

"While elected officials can work for public policy and private industry can take steps to reduce pollution, consumers can do their part by properly disposing of toxic waste that can have adverse effects on our environment," Commissioner Olson added.

With the summer season upon us, it is suggested that homeowners make a conscious effort not to overuse pesticides or fertilizers.



Be reminded to dispose of used motor oil and other toxic household waste at the town's Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (STOP) program. If not properly handled, one quart of motor oil waste can contaminate more than 250,000 gallons of water.

Limit your bottled water purchases whenever possible as the cost is unnecessary and the price paid by the environment

is staggering. Bottling and shipping bottled water is the least energy efficient method ever used to supply water to this marketplace, where the public water consistently meets strict drinking water standards. Additionally, the plastic used to make the bottles takes hundreds of years to even begin decomposing.

Backflow for Protection of Public Health

With in-ground irrigation systems, the New York State Department of Health requires an approved backflow prevention device be installed in an accessible location on the incoming water service line where it first enters the dwelling. This is to ensure that the system is in full compliance for the protection of public health.

It is also required that the device be inspected each year by a NY State Certified Backflow Inspector and the paperwork submitted to the water district for filing.

"This equipment is vital as it prevents any contaminant near the sprinkler heads from being drawn backwards into the public water system in the event there is a sudden drop in water pressure," explained Westbury Water District Commissioner Kenneth O. Jones. "This can happen during a firefighting effort, water main break, hydrant flushing or similar incident."

Consumers are invited to stop by the water district's main office on Drexel Avenue or visit the website at westburywaterdistrict.com for more information.

TANK UPDATE

The Westbury Water District will be seeking Requests for Proposals for the rehabilitation, painting and maintenance of its 1-million-gallon elevated storage tank on Dryden Street. The district's goal is to amortize the cost over several years while ensuring a high level of maintenance to protect and maintain the infrastructure.

A Long History

of Superior Water Quality & Customer Service Excellence in Westbury

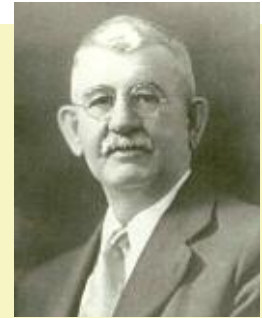
In the Beginning

In the early years, individual wells and cisterns were constructed to provide water to each residence and a sole well was situated in the downtown area for purposes of firefighting. So, in 1904, when a fire broke out in Westbury's business district, the singular well was rapidly depleted and the fire department was left with no immediate source of water. Six years later, with this disastrous event still a vivid memory, a committee of concerned citizens worked diligently for a few short months to formulate a water district to supply water to less than 1,000 residents.

One hundred years ago, on February 17, 1911, the first meeting of the commissioners of the Westbury Water District was held. By April 3, the district had accepted bids for various services including laying pipes and setting fire hydrants



The water district's first storage tower held 100,000 gallons at capacity. In April of 1911, R.D. Cole and Company was awarded the bid to build the structure, which became one of the area's most revered landmarks. It functioned until it was no longer cost-effective to maintain and was removed from the landscape in 1978.



On February 17, 1911, at the conclusion of the first meeting of the Westbury Water District, John Scally was named president of the board (serving until July 1, 1917); T.J. McCord became secretary (serving until April 5, 1917) and G.W. Lascelle was selected treasurer (serving until May 1, 1913). They are pictured left to right.

as well as critical supplies such as valves, piping, a water tank and pumps. The district floated water bonds in the amount of \$60,000 for this initial undertaking. By May of

1911, the first section of 8-inch pipe was laid on Maple Avenue, running from Grand Street to Ellison Avenue. By September of that year, well # 1 was situated at a depth of 505 feet, where water was pumped by vertical engines.

The water was kept in a 100,000 gallon storage tank, which was located near the water district's main headquarters on Drexel Avenue.

Over the next 12 years, the district switched to gasoline run engines, then to kerosene engines that were used in conjunction with an ingenious air-lift pumping system that operated by forcing air into a well through a casement, thereby pushing water into a central in-ground reservoir. From this location, booster pumps fed the public distribution system. Each of these changes was made in an attempt to improve efficiency and reduce operating costs. By 1923, oil-powered engines were being utilized to handle the job. Progress was fast.

In 1924, the district began supplying water to neighboring areas such as Old Westbury and Carle Place, which eventually established their own water utilities in 1935 and 1949 respectively.



The district ledger shows that check #1 was authorized to pay on an engineers' certificate by Thomas B. Harper, contractor for work performed to drill a 225-foot well. The contractor's invoice in the amount of \$1,518.75 is dated July 1, 1911 and itemizes 25 feet at \$7.50 per foot, less 10 percent. Payment was remitted later that month.

The population of Westbury Village had increased to 4,525 by 1940, but it wasn't until 1947 when the Westbury Water District installed a one-million-gallon above-ground storage tank. One decade later, when the population in the village had skyrocketed to 14,575, an additional 1.5-million-gallon underground tank was constructed on State Street.



The district's 1-million gallon elevated storage tank, erected in 1947, provides water to the distribution system through the power of gravity. It is slated to undergo a major rehabilitation project in the coming year.

In 1954, the New Cassel Water District became part of the Westbury Water District, which was also expanded to include a small service area north of Jericho Turnpike known as "Polo Field Park." As the district's boundaries became defined and the population being served by the water utility steadily increased so too did the number of wells needed to provide an adequate supply of water. By this time, they were being equipped with more modern electric pumps, which were eventually backed up by generators to ensure uninterrupted water service in the event of a blackout.

covered often and is encouraged year round by district officials.

As part of its ongoing effort to keep the public informed about important public drinking water issues, Westbury Water District officials have participated in numerous community events and attended many meet-

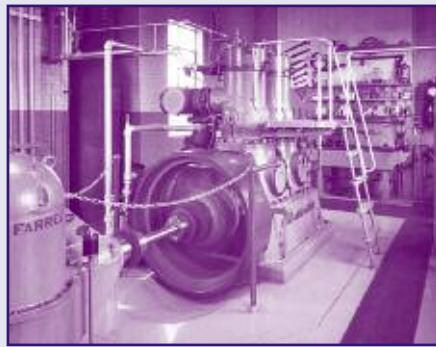
puterized system was added that is capable of operating the wells on an as-needed basis as the demand for water fluctuates according to season, temperature and time of day. These are only some samples of the numerous projects the district has undertaken in more recent times.

In 1992, the Westbury Water District produced its first newsletter, which was sent to consumers in an effort to provide helpful tips and to keep them abreast of news items and background information about the inner-workings of the district. Among others, water conservation is a topic that has been

A Look Inside the Old Pump Houses



Drexel Avenue Main Plant (1952)



Well #9



Well #16

As the turn of the century became closer, water testing became more exacting and state-of-the-art equipment became more available to water purveyors, the district began introducing more modern equipment at its well sites and throughout the distribution system. Additionally, antiquated equipment and procedures were replaced over time by more current infrastructure and methods.

By 2003, with the installation of well #18 on Jericho Turnpike, the district was capable of pumping 18 million gallons of water per day. In 1995, the district's first air-stripping tower was installed to remove any constituents that may be present in the water. Just prior to that, a new com-

ings of area groups and organizations. Officials are also active members of a handful of professional drinking water associations, where they are able to exchange valuable information with colleagues in regard to industry and legislative issues.

In 2005, the water district's presence on the World Wide Web was officially established with the launch of westburywaterdistrict.com, another vehicle for communicating with consumers.

Five years later, the Westbury Water District took its fourth title for Nassau County's Best Tasting Tap Water, an award its founding fathers would be proud of.

Hometown Service

The Westbury Water District is now celebrating 100 years of superior water quality and customer service excellence. The water utility pumps an average of 3.42 million gallons of water each day from 10 deep underground wells to supply water to 20,500 customers. It is distributed through 92 miles of water mains situated throughout five square miles. The district has a storage capacity of 2.5 million gallons and maintains a maximum pumping



District trucks and equipment stand assembled and ready for dispatching on January 30, 1952. Just as today, crews worked in all kinds of weather to get the job done.



While the fireplace has since been removed, the water district's administrative office is still located on Drexel Avenue and staffed by a team of dedicated professionals, just as it was 100 years ago. The utility's first employee, Mr. J.T. Archibold, was engaged on June 14, 1911 as a bookkeeper at \$1.50 per meeting. Within the next year, William Knoller became the first full-time staffer when he was hired as foreman and paid \$50 per month. Soon after, Jean Bennem was named the first clerk at a salary of \$3 per week. In November of 1915, Mr. R. Bird was hired as the district's engineer and was paid \$80 per week.

capacity of 18.5 million gallons per day, to ensure its ability to meet public demand for water and to provide an ample supply for firefighting purposes. The water it tested regularly for more than 135 parameters and meets stringent health department standards consistently. This is a far cry from the days when the district's founding fathers were haunted by the memory of a water supply that ran dry during a firefighting effort in the business district.

But, not all things have changed. The district's main office is still operating at 160 Drexel Avenue in Westbury, where skilled professionals assist customers five days a week. Additionally, field workers, supervisors and the board of commissioners are as equally committed to excellence

as their predecessors when it comes to good service and the quality of the product supplied.

As its founding members intended, the Westbury Water District continues to be run by three commissioners who reside in the service area and are each elected by the public to serve a three-year term. They jointly oversee all functions of the district's operating budget and are held responsible for working together in the best interest of public health and safety to ensure a continuous flow and abundant supply of water for domestic use and firefighting purposes. Together, they handle all fiduciary responsibilities, running the district much like a small business, rather than a large conglomerate.

Just like their predecessors, the board's goal is to provide the residents of Westbury with a clean, safe, abundant water supply at a reasonable rate.



More recently, Westbury Water Superintendent John Ingram (left) was joined by (left to right) Water Commissioners Kenneth Jones, William Olson and Vincent Abbatiello during a visit to a well site undergoing a major capital improvement. This project was part of the water district's ongoing program to maintain and improve its existing infrastructure to ensure an adequate supply of good quality drinking water into the future.

A Look at World Water Day

As recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, March 22 has been set aside as World Water Day since 1993. Similar to the U.S. National Drinking Water Week, it was created as a means for the world to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and to advocate for the sustainable management of freshwater resources.

“While some of the annual World Water Day themes have touched on issues that are pertinent to the Nassau-Suffolk market, others are interesting to note, nevertheless,” commented Westbury Water Commissioner Vincent Abbatiello. “The subjects highlighted globally help to remind us how fortunate we are to have potable water available at the tap 24/7.”

Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge

(2011) Encouraged governments, organizations, communities and individuals to focus on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts and natural disasters on urban water systems.

Water Quality

(2010) Raised awareness of the importance of sustaining healthy ecosystems and human well-being by addressing increasing water quality challenges in water management and promoted worldwide involvement in pollution prevention, clean up and restoration.

Shared Water - Shared Opportunities

(2009) Encouraged the nourishment of opportunities for cooperation in trans-boundary water management to help build mutual respect, understanding and trust among countries and promote peace, security and sustainable economic growth.

Celebrate International Year of Sanitation

(2008) Challenged us to spur action against a crisis affecting some 2.6 billion people suffering from abysmal sanitation conditions globally, cutting 1.5 million young lives short every year.

Water Scarcity

(2007) Highlighted the need for increased integration and cooperation to ensure sustainable, efficient and equitable management of scarce water resources internationally and locally.

Water & Culture

(2006) Drew attention to some of the many cultural traditions of viewing, using and celebrating water, which is sacred when at the heart of many of the religions that use it in rites and ceremonies. Water has been depicted as fascinating and ephemeral in the arts of music, painting, writing and cinema for centuries. It is also essential in many scientific endeavors.



With irrigation accounting for about half of consumers' water use during the heat of the summer, the following provides some suggestions for making adjustments to your irrigation and underground irrigation system to reduce demand for water as well as the resulting bill.

- Have a Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor check your system and make recommendations for repairs and improvements.

- Minimize evaporation by sprinkling early in the day (before 10 a.m.) when the air is cooler. Avoid watering in the evenings, which causes moisture to remain on the foliage through the night, leading to disease problems.

- Program your timer to break the irrigation period into two or three short cycles, with 20 to 30 minutes between each, to allow the water to soak into the ground. Since sprinkler heads typically apply water much faster than it can penetrate the earth, this will reduce water run-off and minimize puddles on the lawn where diseases can flourish.

- Cut back landscaping that may be blocking or deflecting the water spray and causing inefficient irrigation and water waste. If the grass is blocking the spray, replace the sprinkler heads to a model that pops up four or more inches.

- Save on water considerably by changing the sprinklers in shrub areas to a drip system.

- If water is running from the system after it is turned off, check for sand inside the valves, which may be causing it to leak. Otherwise, replace the valves to stop the water waste.

- If you have a poorly designed or very old sprinkler system that is producing dry spots, despite a system tune up, consider switching to newer sprinkler heads as technology has advanced considerably over the last 20 years.

- Separate landscaping into areas where all the plants have similar sun and wind exposure so frequency, time and quantity of their irrigation requirements are the same and can be set on one zone.

Westbury Water District

160 Drexel Ave.
Westbury, NY 11590-3037
(516) 333-0427

Board of Commissioners

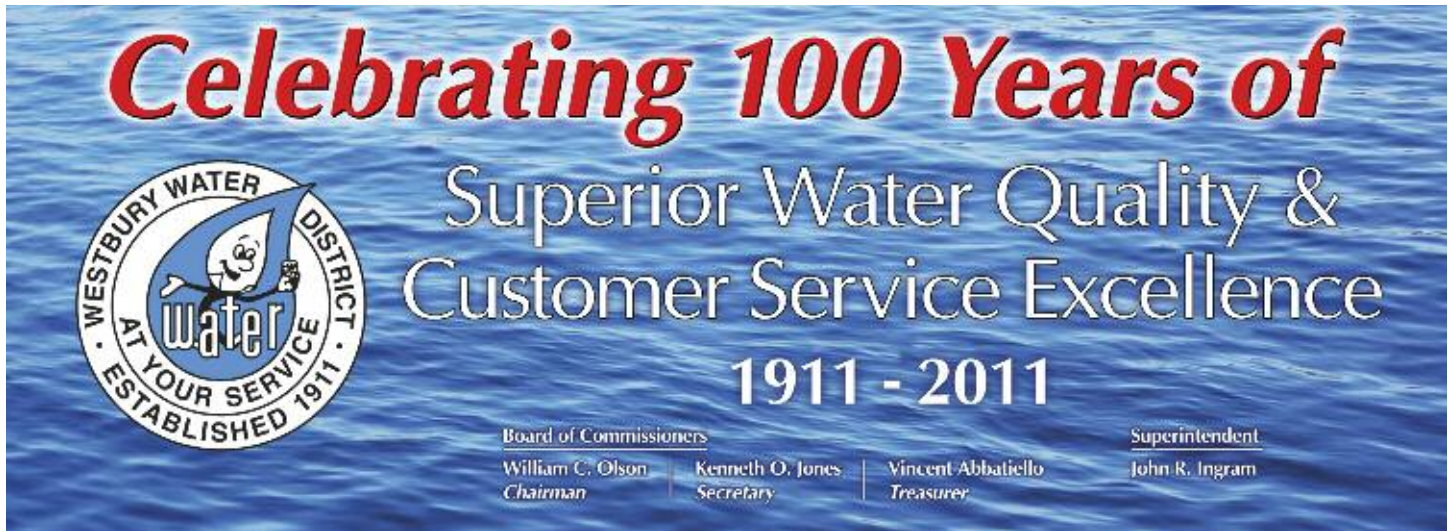
William C. Olson, Chairman
Kenneth O. Jones, Secretary
Vincent Abbatiello, Treasurer

Superintendent


John R. Ingram

www.westburywaterdistrict.com

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



Celebrating 100 Years of
Superior Water Quality &
Customer Service Excellence
1911 - 2011

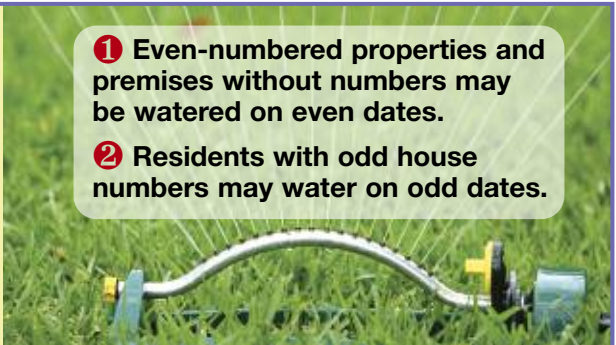


<u>Board of Commissioners</u>			<u>Superintendent</u>
William C. Olson <i>Chairman</i>	Kenneth O. Jones <i>Secretary</i>	Vincent Abbatiello <i>Treasurer</i>	John R. Ingram

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.** During all other hours, watering is permitted only under the following conditions:

These regulations apply to both automatic and time-controlled sprinkler systems as well as manually-operated hose sprinkling. The district does not wish to restrict the use of water, but does want to prevent any waste of this valuable resource. **Please Use Only What You Need!**



- 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.