

# Watergram



Westbury Water District

SPRING 2020

## Water Flowing & Safe to Drink

In response to public concerns about disruptions in daily life attributed to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), Westbury Water District officials reassure the public that the water will continue to flow from the taps, without interruption, and will remain safe to drink.



“The CDC has been clear that there is no known risk to the quality of the public water supply that could result from coronavirus,” said Water Commissioner and Chairman William C. Olson. “Continued oversight; treatment processes; filtration systems; and controlled operation of the water distribution system, combined with its intrinsic design, provide multiple levels of protection from bacterial and viral contamination.”

### COVID-19 Info & Guidance

#### CDC:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/>

#### Nassau County Department of Health:

[www.nassaucountyny.gov](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov)

#### Coronavirus Call Centers:

New York State: 1-(888) 364-3065

Nassau County: (516) 227-9570

### *Many Protective Measures in Place*

- The district’s drinking water wells are situated hundreds of feet below the earth and constructed and maintained in a way that prevents intrusion by foreign substances. Additionally, sufficient positive pressure is sustained in the distribution and transmission system.
- Disinfection; regular bacterial sampling; continuous chlorine and pH monitoring; cross-connection control and leak detection provide added layers of protection.
- Outside labs and Nassau County Department of Health both conduct regular testing to ensure the district remains compliant with strict regulatory requirements set by state and federal governments.
- Water operators have total remote accessibility to the district’s pumping system, which is fully integrated and computer controlled by a modern Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that ensures the water utility is operating at top efficiency at all times. Sophisticated alert and alarm controls; real-time visualization and monitoring; and structured treatment capabilities are just some of the many state-of-the-art features that have proven to be advantageous.
- Westbury Water District is sufficiently staffed with an experienced team of licensed professional who are cross-trained in their respective disciplines and qualified to complete all the tasks necessary to keep the water supply system treated and running 24/7.
- Health and safety precautions are in place for employees; treatment supplies and equipment are well stocked. For extraordinary circumstances, the district is backed by mutual aid agreements with area public water purveyors throughout New York State that are capable of providing needed support or materials.

# Raising Capital CHALLENGING

The Westbury Water District is one of many public water providers planning to develop hi-tech treatment plants to meet proposed new drinking water standards set by the New York State Department of Health for 1,4-dioxane and other emerging contaminants detected throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

To help raise capital, district officials have pursued grant money and urged lawmakers to secure financial assistance for the protection of Long Island's drinking water. The district has also joined area public water purveyors in legal actions against manufacturers that knew or should have known about the hazards posed by their products, but nevertheless failed to take steps to prevent contamination.

## ***\$7.4 Million Grant: Wells 6 & 7***

The district has recently been awarded \$7.4 million from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, from funding made available to municipalities through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act and the Inter-municipal Water Infrastructure Grant Program for infrastructure projects that protect public health or improve water quality.

The state recently earmarked \$120 million toward Long Island public water suppliers to offset some of the costs associated with 37 projects to address the New York State Department of Health's new drinking water regulations, which are expected to become effective sometime in 2020.

Since the process to remove 1,4-dioxane from the water prior to distribution is complex and still being tested by industry professionals, the Nassau County Department of Health requires a pilot study to determine the best solution for each treatment plant. The results of the district's small-scale design of a proposed shared plant for Wells 6 and 7 are currently under review by the health department. The project is expected to cost \$12.3 million.

## ***\$600,000 Grant: Well 12***

Another recent grant, in the amount of \$600,000, will be used by the district to develop a Granulated Activated Carbon plant at Well 12 to remove volatile organic compounds. The well site, which has been out of service for 30 years, will be reintroduced to the distribution system when the project is completed.

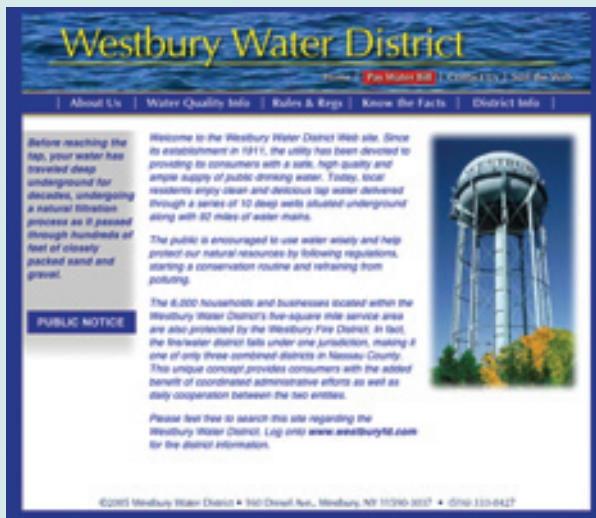
## ***Public Hearing to be Set***

Although currently in full compliance with all government drinking water regulations, the district anticipates the need for treatment plants at up to five well sites, for the removal of 1,4-dioxane, to prevent exceedances of the allowable maximum level of 1-part-per billion. Costs are expected to exceed \$60 million.

"When it comes to the protection of public health and safety, there are no compromises," said Water Commissioner Rodney Caines. "We'll do whatever is required to address any need for water treatment and invest whatever is necessary to provide the public with an uninterrupted flow of drinking water that is safe to drink."

The district expects to conduct a public hearing in the near future, prior to requesting government bonding to cover expenses, which will be offset by the grants received. Funds will then be drawn from any bonds that are issued, as needed.

## Go to Website for FORMS



These documents can now be conveniently accessed by going to the water district's website at [westburywaterdistrict.com](http://westburywaterdistrict.com) and clicking on Rules & Regs.

- 🔹 **Backflow Application**
- 🔹 **Backflow Test Form**
- 🔹 **Freedom of Information Form**
- 🔹 **Ownership Affidavit**

Email completed forms to  
[info@westburywaterdistrict.com](mailto:info@westburywaterdistrict.com)



# Conserve the Smart Way

## New Meter Program Successful

The water district is continuing its initiative to install modernized meter equipment that relies on cellular networks to monitor consumer water use in real time. In the spirit of conservation, the equipment is programmed to alert water operators if a possible leak is detected at a property, so the district can alert the homeowner in an attempt to prevent severe property damage and excessive water waste. Even slow or quiet leaks, which oftentimes go unnoticed, can be identified and addressed to help save water.

District officials are pleased with the success of the program and expect that residential properties throughout the distribution system will be equipped with Smart Meters within one year.

## Modernize Sprinkler Controls

Smart controllers are now required on all new irrigation systems. Additionally, consumers are encouraged to use them to replace antiquated devices that rely on clock-based timers, which can be the cause of significant water waste, mainly due to overwatering. Affordable, modern smart controllers are readily available and designed to make irrigation systems more efficient, improve the health of the landscape and reduce water use.

The devices, which allow the user to program an odd-even sprinkling schedule, can monitor the weather report, environmental conditions and other factors to determine if the irrigation system should be activated, dialed back or suspended for each cycle. The unit's real-time capabilities also enable the user to remotely activate and monitor sprinkling activity and detect leaks in the irrigation system—among other features.

There  
When  
You Need It!



# Bottled Water NOT Needed



As residents are staying more at home and limiting their time in public places, the convenience and availability of safe, clean water flowing from the tap has become an asset that some would say is “priceless.”

“When you purchase bottled water, you are wasting your hard-earned money,” Water Commissioner Barry Green stated. “The product provided by the Westbury Water District costs an average of \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons. It is routinely tested for quality standards, continually meets strict government regulations and remains safe to drink.”

Interestingly, if you check a water bottle's cap or label, you'll see that many say “from a municipal source” or “from a community water system,” which means it's actually derived from tap water.

# Backflow Test MANDATORY

Backflow devices are required to be inspected and tested each year by a New York State



Certified Backflow Inspector and the completed test form submitted to the water district. Blank test forms are now available on the district website at [westbury-waterdistrict.com](http://westbury-waterdistrict.com).

Please call the district at (516) 333-0427 if you are unsure about when your backflow test results are due or have any concerns about providing someone access to a backflow device located indoors, due to social distancing guidelines currently in place.

Drinking  
Water  
Week

MAY 3 - 9, 2020

## Westbury Water District

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info@westburywaterdistrict.com

### Board of Commissioners

William C. Olson, Chairman  
Barry Green, Secretary  
Rodney Gaines, Treasurer

### Superintendent

John R. Ingram

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

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# District Fully Compliant

As outlined in the water quality report on pages 3 through 6, the product provided to the community around the clock by the Westbury Water District is of excellent quality and consistently meets all the stringent standards set by the federal, state and county governments.

It is tested throughout the year by an independent laboratory for more than 140 parameters. The scientific process is so exacting that contaminants in quantities as small as one-part-per-billion can be detected. That's like finding a copper penny among a stack of 1 billion dimes.



# Sprinkling Regulations

- 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.

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 above 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!**