



Oyster Bay Water District

Public Water Supply Identification No.: 2902844

A NEWSLETTER CONCERNING OUR WATER SUPPLY

SPRING 2008

CONSOLIDATION NOT COST-EFFECTIVE!

With the promise of lowering property taxes, Nassau County elected officials are deceiving the public by placing the blame of high taxes on Special Districts. Over the past year, Nassau County has been holding press conferences and issuing press releases incorrectly stating that the “overlapping services” and “lack of accountability” of Long Island’s Special Districts are the cause of the high tax burden. And they claim that consolidation is the answer.

The Oyster Bay Water District, one of these “Special Districts”, wishes to inform its residents and consumers that the current management of the Water District is the most cost-effective means of delivering a public water supply to the community. “The Board of Commissioners are local residents, elected by the public, with the responsibility of managing the budget of the District to ensure a high quality water supply is available to the community at a reasonable cost”, stated Commissioner Robert McEvoy. The Board continuously examines their budgets and expenses to evaluate efficiency improvements and cost saving methods. In addition, every year the Board of Commissioners prepares a budget for the upcoming year, and submits it to the Town of Oyster Bay for their review. The Town then holds a

public hearing before the Town Board approves the budget. In addition, the District retains an outside, independent auditor to review the financial operations of the District.

Our annual financial reports are also provided to the New York State Comptroller, US Department of Commerce and New York State Public Service Commission. A notice of its availability at our local office is published each year in the Oyster Bay Enterprise Pilot.

A consolidation of Water Districts to a County-run system would just create a large, unaccountable agency that will not be able to effectively respond to the needs of the local communities. “We at the Oyster Bay Water District have specialized in the delivery of a clean and reliable source of water at a very reasonable cost for the past 85 years. And we plan on continuing to do this for the next 85 years”, stated Commissioner McEvoy.

The summary below presents the advantages of the current Water District verses the disadvantages of a County-run system.

Best – Hometown Run Water District

- 85 years of local water supply management
- Commissioners live in the District & drink the same water provided to consumers
- Staff intimate knowledge of Oyster Bay community and many of them are local volunteer firefighters
- Service crews provide quick response to consumer inquiries
- Commissioners are easily accessible & held accountable for decisions
- Revenue remains in the District
- Budget prioritized to meet specific needs of the Oyster Bay Water System & all funds are spent for the benefit of our residents

Worst – Nassau County Run Water System

- No experience managing public water system
- Consumers will lose ability to elect area residents to manage district
- Water rates will be set by County officials
- Monies collected in Oyster Bay likely to be disbursed to outside areas
- Individuals living outside the area will make decisions affecting Oyster Bay’s drinking water
- Response times will increase
- Oyster Bay will not be the only priority with a county-wide system

OYSTER BAY WATER DISTRICT

COMMISSIONER BLADYKAS RE-ELECTED

Back in December 2007, Commissioner Francis Bladykas was re-elected as Commissioner of the Oyster Bay Water District for a three (3) year term. Commissioner Bladykas, a native of Oyster Bay, has been a Water Commissioner for the past 21 years. He is an involved member of the American Water Works Association, Long Island Water Conference, as well as the Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association. He is also a professional engineer with 35 years of experience in Public Works with seven (7) of those as head of the water supply unit. Commissioner Francis Bladykas would like to thank the community for their vote of confidence during this past election.



Commissioner Francis Bladykas

BOTTLED WATER MORE EXPENSIVE THAN GASOLINE!

Thirty years ago, people laughed at the thought of “bottling” water. Who would spend their hard-earned money on water? Today in the United States we now spend over \$12 billion a year on bottled water. In 2007, it is estimated that we purchased 8.8 billion gallons of bottled water. That’s approximately 29 gallons per person for the year. The public has been tricked by aggressive advertising into thinking that bottled water is somehow better than tap water. Consumers are paying the equivalent of **\$8 a gallon** for single serving bottled water. (And we thought our gasoline was getting expensive!) Meanwhile, you can get the same high quality water from your tap at a cost of \$1.00 for 1,000 gallons. “Tap water is the best value for your money compared to all other services on Long Island”, stated Commissioner Richard Niznik. “Bottled water may be very convenient, but it is much more cost effective to fill a bottle of water with tap water.”

“From the green standpoint, our bottled water demand is destroying our environment”, added Commissioner Niznik. The Earth Policy Institute reports that 1.5 million barrels of oil per year, enough oil to fuel 100,000 cars per year, are required to satisfy our demand for bottled water. That includes the tremendous quantities of oil to produce the clear plastic bottles as well as the transportation of water to our local supermarkets. And let’s not forget to mention the billions of empty bottles that end up in the trash and our landfills every year.

So next time you are looking for a cold drink to take on the go, consider filling a reusable bottle with tap water. Its high quality, constantly tested, inexpensive and environmentally friendly.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Please note that the Oyster Bay Water District routinely schedules its meetings every Thursday morning at 9:00 a.m. at the Water District office located at 45 Audrey Avenue. All residents of the District are welcome to attend the meeting. Any changes in this Thursday meeting date will be published in the Enterprise Pilot.



Commissioner Robert J. McEvoy receives the Outstanding Community Service Award from C.W. Post School of Public Service Department Chair Professor Linda Vila

NEW EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM IN-PLACE

In an effort to provide a more reliable and effective means of communicating emergency information with the residents and businesses of the Oyster Bay Water District, the District implemented a new Reverse 911 emergency notification program. In cooperation with the Nassau County Office of Emergency Management, the District contracted with the national firm of SwiftReach Network, Inc., as our emergency notification provider. This new system can be used by the Water District or Office of Emergency Management to notify all residents and businesses by phone, cell phone, email and/or text message any information regarding important issues concerning our water supply. During an emergency, the new system can send out messages to our entire District within 10 minutes.

The notification system has been set up with phone numbers provided by a third party (the local phone company) and only includes numbers registered at the addresses located here in Oyster Bay. For the system to be fully effective, it is important for residents and business owners to provide additional contact information such as alternate landline phone numbers, cell phone numbers, email addresses and text receiving numbers. Accurate contact data will ensure that the emergency information will be distributed to everyone in a timely manner. It should be noted that this information will be kept confidential and WILL NOT be provided to any outside agencies or third parties. All submitted information will be updated and managed by the Oyster Bay Water District and will be utilized for emergency notification purposes only.

I want to be here for you.

If only our water infrastructure could talk to us. The corner hydrant might remind us that only tap water protects us against the threat of fire, and that the pipes below our streets need constant attention to keep life-saving water flowing at the right pressure, 24/7, without fail.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure generations before handed down to us, and our water bills keep that system strong and reliable. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit www.oysterbaywaterdistrict.org



Only Tap Water Delivers

Oyster Bay
Water District

Presented in cooperation with

 American Water Works Association



We ask that you please take the time to submit your contact information to the District at this time. Please go to our website at www.oysterbaywaterdistrict.org and click on the SwiftReach icon. Should you have any questions concerning the new program, please contact the Water District office.

COST REDUCTION MEASURES CONTINUE

The Board of Commissioners is proud to announce that several District operational programs have produced real cost savings at the District in terms of dividend checks and cash rebates. These cost savings will continue to allow the District to provide high quality water at reasonable costs.

The District continues to participate in an energy curtailment program where we utilize our on-site emergency generators during Long Island's peak energy usage days. The District has received a total of approximately \$6,000 for participating in this program from the winter of 2006/07 and summer of 2007.

The District also participates in purchasing cooperatives with other municipal entities to obtain low costs including purchasing fuel for vehicles from the Town of Oyster Bay, and providing road restoration through the Town of Oyster Bay. Nassau County blanket orders are utilized to purchase oil and diesel fuel and water treatment chemicals are purchased through the Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners Association cooperative contract. All of these programs help save thousands of dollars every year.

By maintaining an excellent employee safety record for the past two (2) years, the District has received a dividend check in the amount of \$1,232 that represents a 25 percent reduction in our workers compensation insurance premium. This excellent safety record can be attributed to the District's current employee safety training measures that includes on-site safety training seminars and formalized safety procedures.

OYSTER BAY WATER DISTRICT

A Newsletter From:
Oyster Bay Water District
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Presort
3rd Class Mail
Bulk Rate
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Oyster Bay, NY 11771

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Robert J. McEvoy – Chairman
Francis Bladykas, P.E. – Secretary
Richard P. Niznik –Treasurer

SUPERINTENDENT

Karl W. Dahlem

SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Robyn M. Hale

**NASSAU COUNTY SPRINKLING RESTRICTIONS
STILL CONTINUE!**

The sprinkling restrictions that were in effect last year will still apply this year, as follows:

- All water sprinkling for lawns, gardens and shrubbery is PROHIBITED between 10 AM and 4 PM.
- Even-numbered addresses are allowed to water on even-numbered days during prescribed hours.
- Odd-numbered addresses are allowed to water on odd-numbered days during prescribed hours.
- Nassau County ordinances provide for a \$50 civil penalty against first-time violators, with increased fines for repeat offenders.

Please cooperate with our **WATER CONSERVATION EFFORT!**

Water Quality Report Enclosed

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Oyster Bay Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2007. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2007. The District is proud to report that our water meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water standards. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the Water District at (516) 922-4848.

OYSTER BAY WATER DISTRICT