



► Spring 2010

WATER CONNECTION

A Publication of the Port Washington Water District

RATE INCREASE...

What does this mean for our customers?

Rate increase...no one likes to hear that statement but the Port Washington Water District is proud to say that this is the **first** basic rate increase in **23 years**. Additionally, the increase basically amounts to approximately \$1 per month, an average of \$12 more per year.

The rate change goes into effect on July 1, 2010 and the chart below details how your consumption per cubic foot will soon be assessed:

CONSUMPTION <i>(Cubic Feet of Water per Day)</i>	OLD RATE <i>(Per Cubic Feet per Day)</i>	NEW RATE <i>(Per Cubic Feet per Day)</i>
Minimum: up to 13.3 CF	\$0.133 (5/8" Meter)	\$0.155
	\$0.166 (1" Meter)	\$0.20
Next 23.9 CF	\$0.012	No Increase in Rate
Next 33.3 CF	\$0.014	\$0.015
Next 33.3 CF	\$0.027	\$0.029
All Additional CF	\$0.03	\$0.033

Customers can gauge their water consumption by reviewing the next water bill. Rates are calculated by taking the amount of water consumed and dividing that by the actual number of days in the billing period. Of course, if you have any questions, the District staff is happy to clarify any confusion, just give us a call... we are here to help. Additionally, please read Superintendent Italo Vacchio's message to learn a few easy tactics that may help you conserve water as well as help lower your water bill.

Message from our Superintendent

Greetings! I hope this issue of Water Connection finds you well after the past long, cold winter!

With the warmer weather brought on by spring and summer, I believe it's important to remind our customers how important it is to conserve water. This is extremely important during warmer weather since lawn and garden irrigation can account for up to 70% of total water consumption! Here are a handful of quick tips to keep in mind when using water outdoors:

- Install a spring-loaded shutoff nozzle on each garden hose to avoid water waste...this way you only use what you need.

Continued...

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Message from our SUPERINTENDENT

Continued from cover...

- Always remember to check underground sprinklers, pools and spas for leaks. If you do have one, it is important to have it repaired immediately in order to avoid costly water waste.
- For gardens, make small irrigation ditches along rows of plants and flowers.
- Lawn and garden watering is prohibited between 10 AM – 4 PM, year round.
- Even numbered addresses and non-numbered homes can water on even numbered days; odd numbered addresses can water on odd numbered days.

Being mindful of how much water you are using and making sure that you are not being wasteful may wind up saving you a lot in the long run... especially if outdoor water usage can account for 70% of your consumption.



FIRE HYDRANT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM *is Going Strong*

The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) would like to remind residents and business owners that our continuous Fire Hydrant Maintenance Program is still ongoing. Many residents may not realize that the 1,250+ hydrants the District maintains, require maintenance in order to function at their best and remain clearly visible. Remember the fire hydrants withstand harsh conditions from Mother Nature and require regular painting in order to be easily located by firefighters in emergency situations.



This routine service includes testing all hydrants for performance, inspecting for leaks, and flushing to keep maximum pressure. Also included in the program is to check all caps and to keep the parts of the hydrant well lubricated. Our technicians are trained to respond to any damage, leaks or accidents. The PWWD works hand-in-hand with the fire department to ensure public safety in regards to the hydrants. The District believes that this attention to detail and accent on public safety is a major advantage of local management and control by our Water District.

Commissioner Thomas J. Murray commented, "Our maintenance program remains a part of the District's annual budget, and we thank all our consumers and staff for their cooperation in keeping the fire hydrants visible this past winter. Also please call the District if you notice any leaks or signs that a hydrant may have been tampered with."



PWWD Unveils New Website

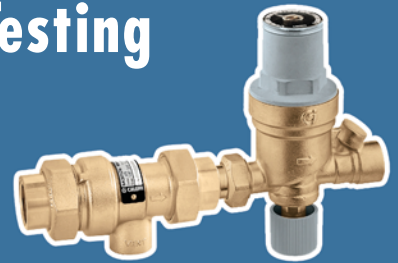
The Port Washington Water District (PWWD) recently launched its new and improved website at www.pwwd.org. The revamped and revised site offers a host of new online features that provide customers with the most up-to-date services and information available, such as many necessary forms that previously had to be picked up from the PWWD office.

Among the site's many new technical features, navigation has been streamlined, making it much more user-friendly for customers. The newly formatted navigation allows site visitors to see more information at-a-glance and find what they are looking for more quickly and efficiently. The site now features a "Recent News" section on the homepage so visitors can be immediately informed and aware of the latest District happenings. The site also provides information regarding ordinances, public notices and frequently asked questions. The PWWD site provides downloadable PDFs of the most current drinking water quality reports and seasonal Water Connection newsletters.

According to Commissioner David R. Brackett, "The newly revised website is a powerful tool used to keep the community updated on major news and events happening in and around Port Washington. No doubt, there was a need for a new website as our previous site had become outdated. It is the goal of the District that all consumers will use and appreciate the site as a valuable resource."



Required Backflow Testing



A backflow condition may arise when very low or negative street pressure occurs due to water main breaks, hydrants knocked over, etc. Although this may not be a common occurrence, it is imperative that ALL customers not only have a backflow device installed by a professional (see our website for a complete list) but also that this device is tested EVERY 12 MONTHS! Water in homes and commercial plumbing systems may become contaminated if one is not installed.

Commissioner Peter Meyer notes, "Backflow prevention devices, when properly installed and maintained, guard against these conditions so please check with our office or website regarding requirements when installing new plumbing systems including underground irrigation." The new website will have many of the required forms under the "Notifications" page. Additionally licensed plumbers or sprinkler/irrigation contractors are also knowledgeable of these mandatory requirements.



(L to R): Water Commissioners David R. Brackett, Thomas J. Murray, Jr. and Peter Meyer discuss the new backflow testing requirements.



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Commissioners:

Thomas J. Murray, Jr., Chairman
David R. Brackett, Treasurer
Peter Meyer, Secretary

Superintendent:

Italo J. Vacchio

Board Meetings:

Every Wednesday 8:00 a.m. except the second Tuesday of each month when the Board meets at 7:30 p.m. All meetings are at the District Office unless otherwise announced.

Business Hours:

8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Weekdays

24-Hour Emergency Number:

(516) 767-0171

Member:

American Water Works Association
Long Island Water Conference

At a recent Long Island Water Conference the **PWWD Commissioners** stopped to chat with Nassau County Elected Officials.



(L to R): Commissioner Thomas J. Murray Jr., New York State Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Nassau County Legislator Wayne Wink (D-Roslyn), and Commissioner Peter Meyer.