



# Waterworks

LOCUST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FALL 2019

## Meeting the Challenges of Stricter Water Quality Standards

The Locust Valley Water District is one of many Long Island public drinking water suppliers anticipating the eventual need to address the New York State Department of Health's newly proposed drinking water standards for 1,4-dioxane and perfluorinated compounds — emerging contaminants that have been detected throughout Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

The proposed standard of 1-part-per-billion for 1,4-dioxane, a synthetic compound that was widely used in industrial solvents, is expected to become effective sometime in 2020. The proposed standard for perfluorinated compounds, namely PFOA / PFOS, used in firefighting foams, water resistant clothing, and nonstick consumer products, will entail detecting constituents in water samples at a particularly challenging level below 10 parts-per-trillion, a process still in the nascent stage.

If the state health department's allowable maximum levels are exceeded, public water providers will be required to install costly and complex treatment systems in a very short timeframe to remove the chemicals from the water prior to distribution.

"The District is currently in full compliance with all state and federal drinking water standards and continues to test the water regularly," said Locust Valley Water Commissioner and Chairman Louis P. Savinetti. "In light of the newly proposed regulations, we are

taking proactive steps to ensure we continue to deliver an uninterrupted supply of water that meets government standards. Residents can rest assured that we will not go back on our promise to protect public health and safety."

To help offset costs associated with developing infrastructure to achieve effective wellhead treatment, District officials will continue to seek out grant opportunities and is urging state and federal lawmakers to secure additional financial assistance for Long Island.

The District has also joined other area public water purveyors in legal actions against the manufacturers of 1,4-dioxane in an attempt to hold them responsible for covering construction and maintenance costs of treatment plants that may be needed to meet the new water quality standards.

### WHAT do parts per million (ppm), parts per billion (ppb) and parts per trillion (ppt) concentrations in drinking water mean in simple terms?

Parts per million (ppm), parts per billion (ppb) and parts per trillion (ppt) are the most commonly used terms to describe very small amounts or trace levels of chemicals in our drinking water.

**One ppm** is the equivalent of one drop of impurity in 1/2 barrel of water or one minute in two years.

**One ppb** is the equivalent of one drop of impurity in 500 barrels of water or 1 cent out of \$10 million.

**One ppt** is the equivalent of one drop of impurity in 500,000 barrels of water or traveling 6 inches out of a 93 million-mile journey toward the sun.

"Water is the driving force of all nature."

Leonardo da Vinci, inventor

# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Louis P. Savinetti



Patricia Peterson



Peter Brown

## Well #6 Update

The District is continuing its ongoing capital improvement program to remain in compliance with current regulations and proposed new water quality standards, as well as to meet public demand for water. Work is underway to develop a Granulated Activated Carbon Filtration Plant at Well #6 on 10th Street, utilizing \$864,000 in grant money secured earlier in the year to help offset the \$2.3 million cost.

The project will continue through the winter months. The wellsite is expected to be completed and returned to normal operations in time for the 2020 summer season, pending final approval by the Nassau County Department of Health.

## District Remains Security Conscience

In addition to monitoring the water distribution system 24/7 via a state-of-the-art Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system, the District implements numerous protective measures to comply with Homeland Security guidelines, guard against a cyber-attack and provide protection against other possible vulnerabilities.

Residents are asked to pay water bills using checks or money orders. Cash should never be mailed but can be used at the District office where a receipt will be provided. Charge cards and direct deposit options are not available.

## Keep Hydrants Clear

The importance of keeping fire hydrants visible and clear of snow and ice during the winter months cannot be stressed enough. The time it would take volunteer firefighters to dig a hydrant out from underneath a frozen pile of snow in a fire situation could mean the difference between life and death.

Improve safety conditions on your street by clearing a 2-foot area around the hydrant nearest your home, particularly after a heavy snowfall, **and remind your plowing contractor not to pile snow in front of, or on top of, fire hydrants.** They are there for your protection.



## Watch Out for Phone Scams

Never divulge personal or financial information to anyone over the phone, unless you are 100 percent sure of their identity. Be aware that scammers are growing more sophisticated in their tactics and may take steps to appear legitimate, including setting up fake caller ID.

Sometimes they claim to represent a utility and create a sense of urgency, demanding money for unpaid bills, threatening to shut off services unless charge card or bank account information is given. Occasionally, victims are instructed to purchase gift cards and provide the serial numbers as payment. These are all telltale signs of a scam.

## Interconnection Helps Neighbors

Upgrades have recently been completed on the Village of Bayville interconnections. The District maintains interconnections with the Village of Bayville, City of Glen Cove, and the Jericho Water District. These interconnections are necessary in times of major system improvements and have been successfully employed at various times over the years. However, they are not meant to sustain a neighboring system completely or indefinitely.

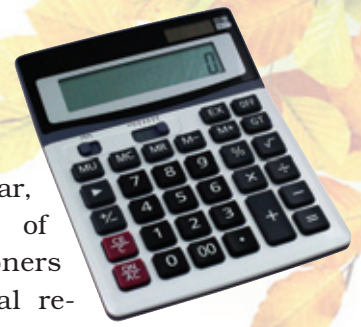
## See Something Say Something



In the interest of public safety, residents are encouraged to act as another set of eyes as they travel about the community. Unusual activity on or near Water District property should be reported to the District immediately by calling (516) 671-1783 during the day and (516) 671-1650 at night. The phones are manned 24/7.

No one is authorized to operate, repair, obstruct or paint a fire hydrant, with the exception of Water District and Fire Department officials. If you observe anyone else operating or tampering with a hydrant, please call the Locust Valley Water District or the police without delay.

# Computing Cost of Water



The District is constantly challenged with the responsibility of providing a continuous supply of water to meet public demand and provide adequate pressure for firefighting needs, while ensuring the water meets all federal and state quality standards, now and into the future. The task of raising capital to cover the associated costs can be equally challenging.

Capital projects are necessary and ongoing to maintain and upgrade the existing infrastructure, some of which dates back almost 100 years, and to meet requirements of the state’s newly proposed standards for emerging contaminants. More recently, the District has introduced modern technology for better efficiency and consumer protection, including a GAC treatment plant, SCADA system and smart meters.

Despite cost-saving measures, cooperative purchasing and the receipt of sizable grants from New York State, a 10 cent increase in water use rates for 2020 is necessary to raise revenue to meet the District’s financial obligations.

“Each year, the Board of Commissioners has a fiscal responsibility to set an operating budget that provides adequate funding to ensure the public receives water around the clock that meets quality standards set by the government,” explained Water Commissioner Patricia Peterson. “While we will continue to make every effort to cut costs wherever possible, we must continue to invest in our infrastructure and distribution system to ensure we remain compliant into the future.”

The District’s average household uses 240,000 gallons of water per year or 60,000 gallons of water each quarterly billing cycle and should expect to pay an average of \$1.73 per day for water under the new rates.

2020 Water Rates	
In District (quarterly)	
Gallons	Per 1,000 gallons
0-10,000	\$2.30 (Minimum Bill \$23.00)
10,001-25,000	\$2.30
25,001-50,000	\$2.70
50,001-100,000	\$3.10
100,001 and above	\$3.50
Out of District (quarterly)	
Gallons	Per 1,000 gallons
0-10,000	\$3.40 (Minimum Bill \$34.00)
10,001-25,000	\$3.40
25,001-50,000	\$3.80
50,001-100,000	\$4.20
100,001 and above	\$4.60

## District’s CONSERVATION Initiatives

### Step Rate Concept

In determining water rates, the District utilizes a step rate structure as a means for motivating consumers to use less water and become more conscientious about the need to protect and preserve our most precious natural resource for use by future generations.

“In theory, the method penalizes the high-end user by increasing the amount charged as more water is used during a 3-month billing cycle,” pointed out Water Commissioner Peter Brown. “The concept is recommended by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the American Water Works Association to discourage wasteful water use and provides a financial incentive to conserve as well.”

### Smart Meters Proven Asset

With conservation in mind and as budgeting permits, the District has been gradually introducing smart meters that rely on cellular networks to monitor consumer water use in real time. Among many useful features, the system can be programmed to send alerts to water operators of possible leaks, so property owners can be notified.

“Since the smart meter program was initiated, a significant number of consumer leaks have been detected. By alerting the homeowners, the District helped avert situations that could have resulted in severe property damage, in addition to an expensive waste of water,” Commissioner Brown stated. “We are pleased with the early results of the program and will continue to install smart meters when possible.”

**Locust Valley Water District**  
(516) 671-1783

**Administration Office**  
226 Buckram Road  
PO Box 531  
Locust Valley, NY 11560

**Board of Commissioners**  
Louis P. Savinetti, Chairman  
Patricia Peterson, Treasurer  
Peter Brown, Secretary

**Superintendent**  
Charles Savinetti Jr.

**Office Hours**  
Monday to Friday  
8 am to 12 pm & 1 to 4:30 pm

**After Hours Emergency**  
(516) 671-1650

**Public Meetings**  
Second and fourth Wednesday  
of each month at 5:30 pm

**Election**  
Tuesday, December 10, 2019  
3 to 9 pm – 226 Buckram Road

**Member**  
Long Island Water Conference  
Nassau-Suffolk Water  
Commissioners Association  
American Water Works Association

**Established**  
1922

[LocustValleyWater.com](http://LocustValleyWater.com)

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## Toy Collection Drop-Off

Helping those who are less fortunate is a great way to celebrate the holiday season. Since 1998, the Locust Valley Water District has been collecting new unwrapped toys for pickup by the United States Marine Corps Reserve for its Toys for Tots program. The drive was started to ensure that no child is without a toy during the holidays. This year is no exception. Donations can be dropped off at the District office on Buckram Road, adjacent to the firehouse, through December 13. Thanks to all who have given so generously.



Never allow anyone to enter your home or property unless you can verify their affiliation and identification. Employees of the Locust Valley Water District carry ID tags that include their names and photographs and will never request money for outstanding invoices or any work performed.

If someone claims to work for the Water District and requests entry to your property, do not grant them access until you are sure of their identity. Be sure to ask to see ID and call the Water District anytime during the day at (516) 671-1783, or night at (516) 671-1650, for a confirmation.

Unfortunately, imposters sometimes pose as utility workers to gain access to a property, only to then steal items or money. Consumers need to be aware of such scams for their own protection. When in doubt, check it out.