

# Waterworks

LOCUST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

FALL 2020

## 2020 Brings Unique Challenges

Similar to most residents and local business owners, Locust Valley Water District officials have been tasked with overcoming some of the many obstacles posed by 2020, including a national pandemic, a tropical storm that packed a heavy punch, calls for help from neighbors, a hot dry summer season, budgetary matters, new stricter water quality regulations and more.

### COVID-19 UPDATE

While there is no risk to the public supply and the water remains safe to drink, the District continues to follow health and safety guidelines to protect its consumers and staff against exposure to COVID-19. Since the pandemic began, District employees have carried out their duties as essential workers, without interruption, to make sure residents receive a continuous supply of water that is safe to drink.

When work inside a consumer home or business

is necessary, employees entering premises are required to wear masks at all times, avoid physical contact and maintain a distance of six feet or more. While semi-monthly public meetings of the Board of Commissioners have returned, a phone-conferencing platform remains available to the public. Information about how to attend is available on the District website.

While the public is not permitted to enter the District's administrative office, its staff is available to assist consumers with special needs or concerns. Bill payments can be dropped off in-person at the front door, although cash payments are discouraged.

### TROPICAL STORM ISAIAS

When Isaias swept across the region in early August, knocking out power to more than 350,000 residents and causing Long Islanders to grapple with the aftereffects, the Locust Valley Water District was no exception.

While it took more than a week for the power, communications and road access to be fully restored, the District relied on backup generators at four of its six well sites to keep pumping and distribution systems operating and the water flowing without interruption.

"We were able to meet the demand for water, despite a major storm and power outage that lasted for many days," pointed out District Chairman Louis P. Savinetti. "That was a testament to our employees and the investments we have made to modernize our technology, schedule ongoing system maintenance and plan for capital improvements."

*(cont. on page 3)*



# A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Louis P. Savinetti



Patricia Peterson



Peter Brown

## Trouble Paying Water Bill?

Recognizing the economic impacts of COVID-19 on the public, the District, in accordance with N.Y.S. law, is allowing residential consumers experiencing financial hardship during the pandemic to request a deferred payment agreement for their water bill, without any down payment or incurring any late fees or penalties. Additionally, during this period, no residential service shut-offs shall be performed by the District for non-payment of a water bill, taxes or charges.

If you are experiencing financial hardship, please let us know. An unexplained failure to make a payment can result in a lien on the property if arrangements are not made for deferred payments. A form is available on the District website under the Regulations link.

## New Water Quality Standards Costly

As anticipated, New York State has adopted strict drinking water quality regulations that require public water providers to develop costly treatment plants to remove 1,4-dioxane, PFOS and PFAS from the water. The District is in full compliance with all drinking water standards and continues to monitor all our wells to determine if treatment will be needed for 1,4-dioxane and the presence of perflourinated compounds.

## Capital Needed to Meet Regulations

Increased operating expenses, new bond indebtedness and high costs associated with meeting the state's strict drinking water standards have resulted in the need to raise capital to protect the quality and quantity of the drinking water supply into the future. A 10 cent increase in water rates for 2021 will be necessary for the District to meet its financial obligations.

## Future Plans

This winter, the replacement of the carbon media is contracted for its filter system at Well #5 on Buckram Road, a necessary routine maintenance function of GAC filtration. With the 10th Street Well #6 filtration

system project near completion, plans are now being developed for the pump rehabilitation at Well #7 on Bayville Road, the Oyster Bay Water District emergency interconnection and the new resin filter project for Well #8 on Duck Pond Road.

## COVID-19 Reminders

Actions by New York residents have helped to reduce the spread of novel coronavirus to one of the lowest rates in the nation. Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant during this holiday season for the protection of their families, loved ones and neighbors. Please continue to wear face coverings when out in public, maintain a 6-foot distance from others, wash your hands frequently and refrain from large gatherings.

## LOCUST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT 2021 Quarterly Water Rates

### In District

Gallons	Per 1,000 gallons
0-10,000	\$2.40 (Minimum Bill \$24.00)
10,001-25,000	\$2.40
25,001-50,000	\$2.80
50,001-100,000	\$3.20
100,001 and above	\$3.60

### Out of District

Gallons	Per 1,000 gallons
0-10,000	\$3.50 (Minimum Bill \$35.00)
10,001-25,000	\$3.50
25,001-50,000	\$3.90
50,001-100,000	\$4.30
100,001 and above	\$4.70

# Funding for Future Projects



This winter, the Locust Valley Water District will request, from the Town of Oyster Bay, bond authorization of approximately \$20 million in funds, for the future development of costly water treatment plant systems to meet new State regulations, anticipated maintenance and rehabilitation projects, and other capital improvement initiatives.

“Bonding has proven to be the most cost-effective method for raising funds for large infrastructure projects as it enables the District to draw the money as needed throughout each project,” explained District Commissioner Patricia Peterson. “By repaying the loan over a long period of time, typically 25 to 30 years, the District can spread the costs among those receiving the benefits of the capital improvements, over the lifetime of the infrastructure, sometimes spanning multiple generations.”

The following provides an overview of the District’s long term capital plans:

**WELL #8** – The development of a Resin Filtration Plant is planned for removal of low levels of Perchlorate. The facility will also undergo well and pump rehabilitation as well as electrical and mechanical upgrades.

**WATER TOWER** – The 1-million-gallon elevated water storage tank on Duck Pond Road will be painted and restored.

## ADDITIONAL INTERCONNECTION

– An emergency water main interconnection with neighboring Oyster Bay Water District will be beneficial to both water purveyors in the future.

**WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS** – Various projects are necessary to maintain the District’s aging infrastructure to improve water flow and pressure throughout the distribution system.

**TREATMENT SYSTEMS** – To remain compliant with new quality standards, treatment systems are expected for Wells #5 & 6 to remove 1,4-dioxane and Well #4 to treat for perfluorinated compounds.

**CELLULAR METERS** – Automatic meter readers, which can monitor consumer water use in real time via cellular networks, have proven to be a very effective water conservation tool. With over 600 units in place, the District plans to install the modern equipment system wide.

**CAUSTIC TANK REPLACEMENTS** – The District adds sodium hydroxide to the water for pH balancing, keeping it well within health department guidelines. The holding tanks and monitoring equipment are aging and need replacing.

**SECURITY & BUILDING UPGRADES** – In the interest of Homeland Security, alarm system and building modernization as well as facility hardening are planned for all District facilities.

## 2020 Challenges

*(cont. from page 1)*

### A CALL FOR HELP

Long Island’s public water utilities are interconnected by mains that enable them to provide water to neighboring suppliers during emergency situations. This past summer, the Locust Valley Water District provided water during much of the summer to the City of Glen Cove, and the Jericho Water District for a brief period, to ensure a continuing flow to the public in those areas.

“While the interconnections are not meant to sustain an adjoining system, they allowed us to help our neighbors, just as any water utility would do in the interest of public health and safety,” explained District Commissioner Peter Brown.

In addition to Glen Cove and Jericho, the

District’s water supply system is also connected to the Village of Bayville and plans are underway for a new emergency interconnection with the Oyster Bay Water District.

### PUBLIC DEMAND SOARS

High temperatures, combined with long periods of low rainfall and more people staying at home, resulted in excessive public demand for water during the late spring and summer. With usage in the months of June through September nearing or exceeding prior records, residents are asked to take measures to conserve our most precious natural resource in the months to come. Helpful tips are available on the District’s website.

**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 8, 2020  
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 Redirected

With the COVID-19 restrictions in place for the safety of our employees, the Locust Valley Water District has unfortunately had to suspend the collection of toys for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tot program. The District has supported the annual drive since 1998 and is thankful to all who have given so generously.

Through the collection and distribution of new unwrapped toys, the program brings the joy of the holiday season to less fortunate children and sends a message of hope to their families. Since 1947, the mission has distributed 584 million toys to 265 million children throughout America.

Please donate to this special cause this holiday season through the program's website: [toysfortots.org](http://toysfortots.org)

Produced by Kathy Ryan Public Relations, Inc., Hicksville, New York

KEEP  
**Hydrants**  
ACCESSIBLE



Awareness of fire safety and easy access to fire hydrants at all times is important for the protection of your property, loved ones and the surrounding community. Hydrants are there for our protection and should NEVER be blocked under any circumstance.

Residents are reminded to clear the snow away from the hydrants nearest their homes this winter season, particularly after the plows have pushed the snow to the side of the road. Also, snow contractors should be instructed not to pile snow up near or on top of a hydrant.

Remember, every second counts in an emergency situation. The time it would take first responders to dig through frozen snow for access to a hydrant could mean the difference between life and death.