

Water Talk

NEWSLETTER OF THE MASSAPEQUA WATER DISTRICT

84 Grand Avenue
Massapequa
New York 11758

www.massapequawater.com

Fall - Winter 2009

30 Years And Still Going Strong



Photo by Ed Cox

Roslyn Amadio has been working for the Massapequa Water District for over 30 years as a clerk-typist. When asked what she enjoyed most about the District she said, "I enjoy my co-workers most of all." Roslyn's experience, knowledge and dependability are an asset to the District. Congratulations for a job well done!

Well No. 9 More Than Just a Well

When Well No. 9 was proposed, it was designed to be more than just a pumping station. From the start, the Board of Commissioners envisioned a new facility that would educate the public about our water systems, as well as train the District employees, with minimal impact to the natural environment. We welcome the public to see firsthand how natural ground water becomes our drinking water.

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Massapequa Water District Greenscape Program

The Massapequa Water District understands the importance of the environment and the community it serves. The District has teamed up with Lawn and Garden expert, Maria Cinque, to implement its new "Greenscape Program."

This new landscaping program is to promote the use of organic fertilizers and natural methods in lawn care. The program will provide upkeep of all of the Water District's facilities without the use of any harmful chemicals or pesticides, which are prohibited to use around well locations by law. The District would like to promote our Greenscape Program to our neighbors and will be providing tips and recommendation on our website.



Photo by Maria Cinque

The Massapequa Water District is installing a drought-tolerant lawn at our headquarters with all-organic materials. A blend of tall fescue varieties have been seeded into the front and side lawn areas. Once completely established, the new lawn should not require as much water as conventional lawns. Plus, it will be maintained organically.

Structural Repairs at May Place

The Massapequa Water District will begin structural maintenance repairs on the 1.0 MG (Million Gallon) elevated storage tank located at May Place. The repairs are to maintain and upgrade the facility which provides a constant static pressure throughout the water system. The scope of the project will include detailed inspections of the tank, refurbishing of any deficient components and the restoration of the finished surface layer.



1.0 MG Elevated Water Tank

Obstructed Fire Hydrants

What Homeowners Need to Know

While having a fire hydrant in front of a home may give a homeowner peace of mind. There's no getting away from the fact that a bright red hydrant on your property can present a landscaping design challenge. Homeowners may think that screening it with plantings or decorative lattice might solve the problem, but it merely creates another. An obstructed fire hydrant means that firefighters may lose precious minutes trying to connect their hoses. Massapequa Water District Ordinance Section 5.29 states that the planting of trees, bushes, etc. must clear an existing fire hydrant by a minimum measurement of eight (8) feet. Plantings may not be allowed to hide the hydrant. Grass and weeds must be cleared away by the homeowner so that the hydrant remains clearly visible and unobstructed.

Occasionally a snowstorm may deposit enough snow that when the streets are plowed the snow pack may obscure the hydrant. When this occurs, the homeowner is responsible for clearing the snow from the hydrant making it accessible.

GRUMMAN PLUME

ADVANCES MORE RAPIDLY TOWARD MASSAPEQUA WATER DISTRICT WELLS

The "GOOD NEWS" is that the Massapequa Water District remains as of now, one of the few public water suppliers in Nassau County that has not yet been impacted by man-made contaminants such as found at the Liberty Industrial Finishing Site and the Grumman Complex in Bethpage. However, the "BAD NEWS" is that over the past decade due to:

- (a) the extraordinarily protracted clean-up negotiations between the United States Navy and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC);
- (b) the lack of action by the Nassau County Executive; and
- (c) the inattention of our United States Senators,

the Grumman plume has been allowed to advance to the point where it has impacted several public water supply wells south of the Grumman site. These wells now require "wellhead treatment" for the removal of the Grumman contaminants.

Based on the information forwarded to the Massapequa Water District by the NYS DEC, the officials of the District had been led to believe that our supply wells would not be impacted since clean-up actions, by a proven method of plume recovery and treatment, would result in the removal of contaminants from the aquifer. Our review of the most recent information indicates otherwise, and in fact we concluded that the plume is moving in a south-southwest direction more rapidly than any of the regulatory agencies had expected or publicly revealed.

Recent regulatory agency information now confirms that public water supply wells north of the Massapequa Water District's well sites have been impacted earlier than expected. In this new light, the District will continue its' argument against wellhead treatment as the "solution to pollution" and will take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that our public water supply wells are not impacted now or in the future by these contaminated plumes.

Well No. 9 (continued from page 1)

In the education center, visitors to the facility can witness the workings of the Massapequa Water District; from the pumping, the distribution, and the treatment of natural ground water to provide the highest quality water to its residents.

In the three years since the Educational Center has opened, it has certainly done what was hoped for by the Commissioners. The success of this project has been partly attributed to the working of Assemblyman Joseph Saladino, whose office has provided multiple grants to help make the Educational Center possible.

Over time the Ecology Trail has matured and filled in. The many specimens of trees have been individually identified with wooden placards created and placed by John Kellermann a senior at Farmingdale High School and a member of Boy Scout Troup No. 691. This was one of the projects that enabled John to become an Eagle Scout on October 6, 2009

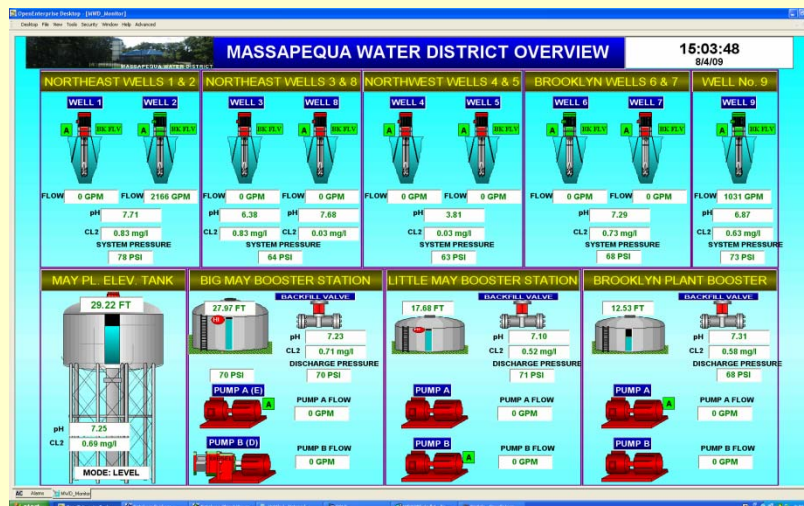
Today, the Commissioners continue to look for more ways to make the Center an even greater asset to the public. The Educational Center was designed to be accessible to all. If you or your group is interested in learning more about the water you drink, please call the Business Manager at (516) 798-5266.



Photo by Ed Cox

SCADA

The Massapequa Water District has finished upgrading its Well Data Control System. The District's commitment to water quality and service to its residents has allowed for the investment in better technology. The new Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA) system will allow for instantaneous status updates for tracking and maintaining its nine (9) well locations and four (4) tank locations. The "previous" system only allowed the operators to access information and modification to the well or tank at the site. The new SCADA system allows an operator to interface with all the wells and tanks both onsite and remotely. The system will provide an overall more efficient and better equipped staff which will allow for better service and response.



An example of the operator's overview screen

Massapequa Water District
84 Grand Avenue
Massapequa, NY 11758

PRSTD STANDARD
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MASSAPEQUA, NY
11758
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Photo by Ed Cox

Profile of Massapequa Water District

- The Massapequa Water District serves some 13,500 customers including 540 commercial firms in an area of 6.6 square miles.
- The estimated population of the Massapequa Water District is 48,000.
- In 2008 the District pumped a total of 1.86 billion gallons of water.
- The District can pump a maximum of 19 million gallons of quality water per day.
- In case of emergency, the Water District has 8 interconnections with the South Farmingdale Water District and Aqua New York Water.
- The District's transmission-distribution system consists of 146 miles of 6 to 20 inch mains.
- The Massapequa Water District acquires all water from underground wells and has a storage capacity of 4 million gallons with 1 elevated and 3 ground storage tanks.
- The Massapequa Water District was chartered in 1931 making it one of the oldest on Long Island.

BUSINESS HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30AM – 4:30PM

www.massapequawater.com

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Frank J. Flood
John F. Caruso
Vincent Guadagno

Assistant Superintendent

Andrew Colapinto

Business Manager

Constance Belegirinos

Office Manager

Kerri Alter

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Long Island Water Conference
Nassau-Suffolk Water Commissioners
Massapequa Chamber of Commerce
American Waterworks Association
NYS Section - AWWA

24 Hour Emergency Number
516-798-5266