



## LONG AWAITED IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WAY FOR THE WATER DISTRICT

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In the beginning of this year, Supervisor Sean Walter and the Town Board determined that the long needed improvements to the Water District could wait no longer. The Water District's pumping capability had fallen to 94% of a peak day's demand. This peak day for demand occurred on July 20, 2008. Supervisor Walter assigned Dave Cullen, Special Projects Manager for the Town to work with the Water District's Superintendent Gary Pendzick to quickly increase the ability of the district to meet and even exceed peak demand.

Supervisor Walter stated "The Town takes pride in having our own Water District that can provide excellent drinking water to our residents at a very reasonable price." Since the demand for water had increased significantly in the past few years, the Town had to move quickly to meet this demand. When all of the projects are completed, the Riverhead Water District will have the capacity to pump approximately 25 million gallons per day and bring pumping capability from 94% to 124% of the previously mentioned peak day. This will ensure that the residents of

Riverhead will have an adequate water supply for the future. Most of these improvements will be completed by the summer.

The Riverhead Water District improvements include new supply wells in Jamesport (Plant No. 15 on Tuthill Lane), another supply well in Calverton (Plant No. 16 on Edwards Ave) and a booster pump station at the interconnection with the Suffolk County Water Authority at Dogwood Lane in Wading River. The last well in this improvement project is Plant No. 17 at the intersection of Route 105 and Northville Turnpike. This well, the last project on the list will be operational by the spring of 2011.

These improvements combined with our ongoing water conservation program should bring our system back to excellent condition that could well serve as a model for a town water district. The Riverhead Water District is also in the planning stage for 2 additional wells to keep up with anticipated future demand. The details of the Water District's conservation plan are presented on page 2 of this newsletter.



Supervisor Sean Walter at one of the new well sites that will help ensure our future supply of high quality water for the residents of the Town of Riverhead and Plant 16 on Edwards Avenue

## WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Over the past 25 years, the Riverhead Water District has grown significantly to meet the changing needs of our community. The District was extended to areas of the Town where existing homes utilized private wells that had a concern for possible contamination and needed a safe and reliable water supply. Development of both residential and commercial areas occurred which also pushed for the expansion of the Water District service area. And the change in our everyday actions significantly increased our daily water use demands, mostly due to the availability of automatic irrigation systems.



In addition, the demand for public water has increased by 600 percent over this 25 year period. During this same period, the Riverhead Water District has implemented capital improvement projects to increase its water supply and storage capacity. We have constructed new supply wells, new storage tanks and new transmission mains. However, “The demand for water during the peak summer days continues to increase at a significant rate,” stated Supt. Gary Pendzick.



Supt. Gary Pendzick added, “We are currently proceeding with the implementation of adding additional capacity with new supply wells in Jamesport and Calverton that should be ready for this summer.” In addition, the District has started the process of constructing an additional supply well in Northville that should be available by next year.

The District maintains a total of 11 supply wells plus 4 wells under construction. On a typical day in November through March, the District only needs to run four (4) of these wells. However, for a few days a year, during the hot and dry periods of the summer, the District needs all 13 wells running to meet the demand and continue to maintain adequate fire flow protection.

“The only other option to continuing to construct additional supply wells and storage tanks at a cost of several million dollars is to implement an effective water conservation plan”, stated Supervisor Sean Walter. “By modifying the way the residents of the District use our water, we feel we can reduce our water use and ensure we have a sufficient supply of water for our needs during the periods of high water demand”, continued Supervisor Walter.



Working with Supt. Gary Pendzick, the Town and District have developed a new water conservation plan that will hopefully reduce our peak water use by 10 percent. However, we need the cooperation of the residents of the District to implement the plan. It is imperative that all residents follow the conservation plan procedures and tips. If we do not succeed, we may need to implement more stringent water restriction measures this summer.

Should any resident have questions concerning our water conservation plan, please call the Water District at 631.727.3205.

## ODD AND EVEN TO REDUCE THE PEAK BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

The Riverhead Water District has implemented voluntary lawn irrigation restrictions that will only permit the watering of a lawn every other day, based on the address number of your home. ODD number houses will only be allowed to water on ODD days of the month. EVEN number houses will only be allowed to water on EVEN days of the month.



During the hottest summer day, approximately 80 percent of all the water being supplied by the Riverhead Water District goes directly to lawn irrigation, with over 70 percent of all homeowners having an irrigation system. They are great for keeping our lawns green throughout the summer, but they are putting a tremendous strain on our precious water supply system. The real question is, do we need to water everyday?

Horticultural specialists have determined that it is better for a lawn to be irrigated less frequently than daily to promote deep root growth. And the Cornell Cooperative Extension recommends that Long Island lawns only need 1 inch of rain or irrigation per week.

The Riverhead Water District is recommending that all homeowners with automatic irrigation systems set up their control panels to operate every other day. You may also want to install a rain sensor that will shut down the irrigation system during rain events.



# 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.riverheadli.com](http://www.riverheadli.com)



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## OTHER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Irrigation restrictions on an every other day basis is the prime action of our Water Conservation Program. But there are many other ways every member of our community can save water everyday. Here are a few conservation tips that may help:



- Don't irrigate during the heat of the day. Studies have shown that up to 50% of the irrigation water applied during the middle of the day (10 am and 4 pm) is lost to evaporation and never makes it to the roots of the lawn.



- Install a rain sensor onto your irrigation system to shut down your automatic irrigation system when it is raining. Let nature do its own thing!

- Fix that leaking faucet. A leaking faucet or leaking toilet can amount to over 100 gallons per day. Multiply that by the hundreds of faucets that could be leaking on any given day and that adds up to a lot of wasted water!



- Store a pitcher of water in your refrigerator rather than letting it run until cold every time you want a cold glass of water.



- Don't let the faucet run when brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on and off when needed.

For more conservation tips, please visit [www.epa.gov/watersense](http://www.epa.gov/watersense).