

# WATERGRAM

## Hicksville Community Mourns Loss of Warren Uss

*Former Captain of the Hicksville Fire Department and Hicksville Water District Commissioner*



The Hicksville Water District and Emergency Company 5 of the Hicksville Fire Department are deeply saddened by the passing of Commissioner Warren Uss on July 15, 2014.

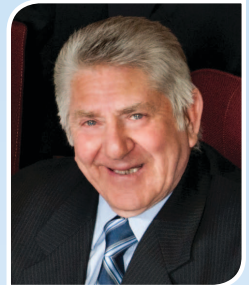
In September 1972, Commissioner Uss, a 3rd generation Hicksville resident, joined the Hicksville Volunteer Fire Department as part of Emergency Company 5. Passionate and hardworking, he quickly became an integral member of the company. As a result of his dedication, he was elected secretary in 1977, a position he would hold for many of his 42-plus years of service.

In 2008, Uss was elected by the community to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Hicksville Water District, of which he was chairman of the board for 2014. Commissioner Uss was a vital member of the District, taking an active role in the development and oversight of the first nitrate water treatment facility in New York State. He also played a pivotal role in the rehabilitation and construction at Plant 1 and Plant 6. He was an active member of the American Water Works Association, the Long Island Water Conference and the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners Association.

Outside of serving his community, Commissioner Uss could be found coaching his daughter's basketball team at Trinity Lutheran, enjoying mornings at the golf course and participating in a bowling league. His professional career spanned more than four decades, first as a licensed representative on the New York Stock Exchange, then as a business owner, operating a home improvement business for many years. He would eventually retire as an employee of the Hicksville Fire District in 2011.

Commissioner Uss is survived by his wife Dianne, their daughter Alexandra, his dear sister Maureen Bensen, and his brother John and his wife Maryann. He is also survived by his mother-in-law, Dolores Sartor, and his sister-in-law, Linda Schoepfer, along with many nieces and nephews. Commissioner Uss will be deeply missed by his family, friends and colleagues, past and present.

### COMMISSIONERS:



Nicholas J. Brigandi  
*Chairman*



Karl M. Schweitzer  
*Treasurer*



William Schuckmann  
*Secretary*

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- ❖ Capital Projects
- ❖ Prepare Your Home for the Winter
- ❖ Visit our Website for More Information

*Visit our Website for More Information:*  
[www.HicksvilleWater.org](http://www.HicksvilleWater.org)

# Hicksville Water District Continues Making Progress on 2014 Capital Improvements

The Hicksville Water District recently announced planned capital improvement projects for 2014 remain on schedule and on budget. The District is currently updating Plant 1 and Plant 5 and making other small repairs and upgrades to District facilities to improve the water purification process and increase operational efficiency.



*District employees are available around the clock for necessary repairs and projects.*

“These capital improvements are designed to enhance our water purification process and ensure that Hicksville’s residents continue receiving the highest quality water,” said Commissioner Schweitzer. “The District is extremely cost-conscious, and we are committed to getting the most value out of our facilities, as we recognize the long-term benefit that comes with operating as efficiently as possible.”

The updates at Plant 1 on Bethpage Road are nearly completed. The facility is being renovated to include a new nitrate removal process and an improved Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) removal process. Plant 5 on Stewart Avenue will be renovated to include an enhanced VOC removal process, in addition to other plant upgrades.

The District is also planning several water main replacements throughout Hicksville in the coming years as part of its infrastructure improvement program to improve water quality and reliability for fire protection.

## Improving Water Quality and Keeping Taxes Down

The District has proposed a budget for 2015 that will remain within the adjusted tax levy limit mandated by New York State. The proposed budget has been carefully balanced to ensure that the community’s tax dollars will be used to maintain high water quality and continuously improve service for residents. It is important to us at the Hicksville Water District to be fiscally responsible and to provide residents with the best quality water at the lowest price for years to come.

By constantly maintaining rates below the national average, the District has a strong trajectory of keeping the cost of water at pennies per gallon. Water Commissioners Nicholas Brigandi, Karl Schweitzer and Bill Schuckmann, along with District Superintendent Anthony Iannone, consistently seek to invest tax revenue in the most effective and responsible ways to maintain the lowest possible water bills and highest quality drinking water.

## Clear Snow from Hydrants

As the weather nears freezing temperatures, the District reminds residents to keep fire hydrants clear of snow. It is important that homeowners and small businesses assist the community by ensuring fire hydrants are not blocked or frozen from snow or ice so that in the event of an emergency, firefighters are able to perform their job without any disruptions.

### ADOPT A HYDRANT

To ensure general public safety, residents should think of helping neighbors and friends who may not be able to clear hydrants near their homes by “adopting” a hydrant. If an elderly or incapacitated neighbor has a hydrant on their property, consider shoveling out the hydrant in the event of snow to ensure the safety of the community.

## VOTE

**Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2014 • 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.**  
**Hicksville Fire Station #1 at 20 East Marie Street**  
**Hicksville Fire Station #4 on Levittown Parkway**

# Hicksville Water District Receives Award for Innovative Water Treatment Plant

During the 100th Annual New York American Water Works Association (NYAWWA) Conference, the Hicksville Water District was proud to receive the 2014 Project of the Year (Medium System) award.

The District received the honor for its sustainable and cost-effective treatment solution to remove nitrates and VOCs from the water supply at Plant 6, located on Kuhl Avenue. The award is the latest regional recognition for the District, solidifying it as one of the best and most innovative water districts on Long Island and in New York.

The nitrate treatment was achieved with the addition of a highly efficient ion exchange system. The ion exchanger removes nitrates from the water stream and generates a waste of only 0.2 percent of the treated capacity.



*The award-winning facility utilizes a sustainable and cost-effective treatment solution to remove nitrates and VOCs from the water supply.*

## Winterize Your Home in Preparation for the Cold

### SPRINKLER SYSTEM

Sprinkler systems need to be drained and turned off to prevent leaking and damage to the system.

### OUTDOOR WATER SYSTEM

Be sure to drain outdoor faucets and turn off outdoor water to prevent freezing and breaks. Do not forget to check your water meter pit cover to ensure that it is securely bolted and that the cover is intact.

### ADEQUATE HEATING

Keep the thermostat at the same temperature during the day and night; while lowering thermostat temperatures at night can help save on the heating bill, this can increase the risk of frozen or bursting pipes. Set your thermostat to no lower than 60 degrees, especially when leaving your home for an extended period. Poorly heated homes are prone to freezing pipes and water damage.

### WATER LINES LEADING TO UNHEATED STRUCTURES

Shut off and drain water lines until spring to prevent breaks.

### REGULATE WATER FLOW

Install devices that regulate and restrict water flow, such as faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads. Faucet aerators attach to a faucet, increase spray velocity and reduce splash. A low-flow showerhead can use up to one-third less hot water than a bath. Use the lowest temperature settings available in washing machines and dishwashers to reduce the amount of energy used.

### INDOOR MAINTENANCE

If water service is in the boiler room or basement, check the area for broken windows or drafts. Brisk winds and freezing temperatures can cause pipes and water meters to freeze or break, so locate the main shutoff valve for emergency use. Make sure to insulate pipes in unheated areas. Use a hair dryer or electric heating pad to warm the pipe from the faucet, moving slowly toward the cold part of the pipe. DO NOT use an open flame to thaw the frozen pipe.

In addition, repairing leaks in faucets and showers can prevent larger costs from incurring over the winter!



**Hicksville Water District**

4 Dean Street  
Hicksville, NY 11801 USA

(516) 931-0184  
(516) 931-6506 (Fax)  
www.HicksvilleWater.org

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Hicksville, NY 11802  
Permit No. 1039

**Board Meetings**

Second and fourth Tuesday of the month at 5 p.m.  
at the District office, unless otherwise announced.

**Business Hours**

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays

**Superintendent**

Anthony Iannone

**Secretary to the Board**

Mary Ellen Thorgramson

**Commissioners**

Nicholas J. Brigandi, Chairman  
Karl M. Schweitzer, Treasurer  
William Schuckmann, Secretary

**24-Hour Emergency Number**

**(516) 931-0184**

**Member**

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

***Proudly serving the Hicksville area since 1921.***

**Alert: Reports of individuals posing as Hicksville Water District employees to gain access to resident homes.**

The Board of Commissioners asks residents to be aware of the current situation and the precautions they can take to ensure their safety. It is important to remember that Hicksville Water District personnel will never visit a residence unless there was an appointment made prior to the visit. All District employees are required to wear Hicksville Water District uniforms and carry photo identification cards. The Commissioners remind residents to always ask to see these identification cards before allowing any person claiming to work for the District into their homes. The Hicksville Water District has these rules in place for the security of its residents, and continues to enforce community safety as their top priority. If you have any questions please contact the Hicksville Water District at (516) 931-0184.

**Visit Our Website for More Information**

Last year, to ensure that residents have information readily available, we launched a new and improved website: [www.hicksvillewater.org](http://www.hicksvillewater.org).

The revamped design provides customers with easy navigation throughout the site. The home page offers quick access to three key components for consumers: Frequently Asked Questions, In Case of Emergencies, and Backflow Explanation and Regulations. From a computer or mobile device, you can find information about billing, news updates and more. In addition to the comprehensive home page, you will be able to access a digital version of the District's bi-annual newsletter, information about the history of the District, and resources about water conservation.

