

WATERGRAM

Fiscal Responsibility: A Top Priority of Your Water District

No Increase in Taxes or Water Rates for 2013

Once again this year, the Board of Commissioners has announced that it will not increase real property taxes or water rates. Even as the Consumer Price Index has risen 17.13 percent since 2007, the average consumer in Hicksville has seen only a 1.69 percent increase in taxes in that time — an increase of approximately 90 cents. The District was able to achieve this zero-percent increase despite the New York State Property Tax Cap allowance of a tax levy that is 2 percent or the rate of inflation.

The Consumer Price Index has risen **17.13 percent** since 2007. The average consumer in Hicksville has seen only a **1.69 percent** increase in taxes in that time — an increase of approximately 90 cents.

As the economy continues to struggle, the District is challenged with maintaining a balanced budget while ensuring that residents' water supply continues to undergo rigorous testing and remains pure and plentiful. Rising costs of gas, oil and electricity impact the Water District, as well as its consumers. However, the District prepared in advance for the possibility of this economic downturn through long-term financial planning. This includes borrowing when interest rates are low, maintaining the fund balance and reserves, and participating in the New York State Employee Retirement incentive.

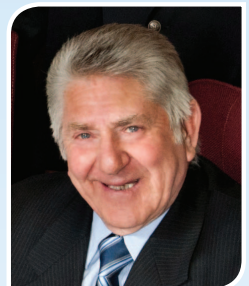
The Hicksville Water District commissioners are sensitive to the financial concerns of local consumers. Every dollar you are paying in water rates and District real-property taxes is dedicated to capital improvements and to the operation and maintenance of the Hicksville Water District. Your money does not go into a general county or town fund where it can be diverted for other needs or programs that are not as critical as your water supply.

Yes, times are tough; there's no sugar-coating that issue. But our bright spot here in Hicksville is that, once again, the Water District has weathered the storm.

COMMISSIONERS:



Karl M. Schweitzer
Chairman



Nicholas J. Brigandi
Treasurer



Warren Uss
Secretary

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Visit our Website for
More Information:
www.HicksvilleWater.org

Superintendent's Message



In the aftermath of superstorm Sandy, I know that many of you continue to face significant challenges. As you clear up debris and work to restore your homes and properties from any damage you may have sustained, the very last thing you need is another threat to your safety and security. Sadly, there are individuals

who will seek any and every opportunity to gain from others' misfortunes — people who will take advantage of others, regardless of circumstances. That is why I want to alert you to a potential threat to your safety and offer advice for your protection.

Predators posing as public utility workers have been identified as a threat on Long Island, with several incidents documented in recent years. Any time you allow someone into your home, it is imperative that you use discretion. Refuse entry if you have even the slightest concern. Beware that imposters may say that they are at your house for a meter reading, a water leak, a filtration device or a general inspection.

Hicksville Water District employees will always contact you prior to an appointment at your home. District personnel carry photo identification cards with them at all times and travel in Hicksville Water District vehicles. If you suspect that an individual is an imposter utility worker, do not hesitate to verify District personnel; please use caution and call the District at 516-931-0814.

In this issue, you will read about the improvements throughout the District. Hicksville Water District has made substantial renovations to both Plants #1 and #6. To read about these improvements, please read the capital improvements article on p. 3.

I urge all District residents to participate in the upcoming Board of Commissioners election. The election will be held on December 11 from 3-9 p.m. at the Hicksville Water Fire Headquarters Stations #1 and #4.

As the holiday season approaches, I wish each of you peace and contentment.

Best Regards,

Anthony Iannone
Superintendent, Hicksville Water District

Hicksville Water District Is Tough on Polluters!

For years, water suppliers across the country have been cleaning up the aquifer of pollution from businesses and factories. Hicksville Water District Commissioners Karl M. Schweitzer, Nicholas J. Brigandi and Warren Uss have taken an active role in protecting our environment, and particularly our local water supply, and prosecuting those who endanger it.

The agricultural landscape of America turned industrial in the wake of World War II, and businesses began to dispose of toxic waste products without regulation. In the 1970's and 80's, the United States Environmental Protection Agency and New York State Department of Environmental Conservation implemented regulations concerning the disposal of pollutants, which can seep into groundwater. However, despite increasingly stringent regulations, violations continue to occur. Hicksville Water District is committed to holding polluters accountable and ensuring that local residents receive a continuous, pure supply of water. The District has aggressively pursued legal action in three recent local instances of groundwater pollution:

- ❖ In 2006, the District reached an agreement with major gasoline retailers on MTBE pollutant issues and is closely monitoring pending litigation for groundwater contamination in several other locations.
- ❖ In the past year, the District reached an agreement with a dry-cleaning establishment concerning violations linked to volatile organic chemicals (VOCs).
- ❖ The District is currently entering into another agreement with a former defense contractor, also concerning VOC issues affecting the groundwater in local wells.

Our goal is to recover costs associated with the operation of our treatment systems. Additional costs for future treatment systems and maintenance are also included in the litigation.

To ensure that our consumers and future generations continue to enjoy a plentiful supply of clean water, the District is moving forward with a three-pronged approach emphasizing (1) the best treatment of water from the aquifer, (2) stronger legislation and (3) more aggressive litigation for polluters.

Moving Forward With Capital Projects

The Hicksville Water District has undertaken several capital projects to increase the efficiency and productivity of its facilities. This past summer, Commissioners Karl M. Schweitzer, Nicholas M. Brigandi and Warren Uss held a community forum to discuss the revitalization and rehabilitation of Plants #6 and #1. Following is an update on the progress of those projects.

“These projects are designed to keep consumer costs down by maximizing the efficiency of our facilities. In addition, upgrades to our treatment system enhance our ability to continue providing pure, clean and good-tasting water.”

- Hicksville Water District
Chairman Karl M. Schweitzer



The Hicksville Water District Board of Commissioners, Karl M. Schweitzer, Nicholas Brigandi and Warren Uss, at the June 19 State of the District community forum.



Plant #6

Work is nearing completion and all upgrades will be concluded in the next few weeks. As part of a routine annual procedure, treatment for volatile organic compounds (VOCs) has been completed. The nitrate treatment follows and is expected to be completed this month. These treatments ensure that your water remains pure.



Plant #1

Treatment upgrades are designed and out for bids. The project will be awarded shortly, and construction will begin on a new nitrate-treatment plant and upgrades to the existing VOC treatment system. These improvements will ensure that there are no detectable levels of VOCs and that nitrate-removal exceeds required standards.

Hicksville Water District

4 Dean Street
Hicksville, NY 11801 USA

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

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

Karl M. Schweitzer, Chairman
Nicholas J. Brigandi, Treasurer
Warren Uss, Secretary

**24-Hour Emergency Number
(516) 931-0184****Member**

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

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Are You Ready for Old Man Winter? Winterize Your Home in Preparation for the Cold

The holiday season is around the corner and we know the bitter cold of winter is close behind. Hicksville Water District urges you to take the necessary precautions now, and avoid the potential dangers that affect your water system in low temperatures. Frozen water pipes, flooding and extensive damage to homes and disrupted water service can be avoided by following a few simple guidelines.

Sprinkler System

Sprinkler systems should be drained and turned off to prevent damage to the system as well as possible leaks.

Outdoor Water System

Be sure to drain outside faucets and turn off outside water to prevent freezing and breaks. Check your water meter pit cover to ensure that it is securely bolted down and that the cover is intact.

Adequate Heating

Set your thermostat to no lower than 60 degrees, especially when leaving your home for an extended period of time. 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.

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. Locate the main shutoff valve for emergency use. Make sure pipes in unheated areas, such as crawl spaces, are properly insulated.

By adhering to these suggestions, you will eliminate your woes this winter. Unfortunately, we can't do anything about your unshoveled driveway, sorry!

