

# WATERGRAM

## Update on the Latest Capital Projects

The Hicksville Water District is constantly looking for ways to increase the efficiency and productivity of its facilities. To that end, Commissioners Nicholas M. Brigandi, Karl M. Schweitzer and Warren Uss held a community forum in the summer of 2012 to discuss the revitalization of Plant #6 and Plant #1. Since that forum, work on the two plants has progressed significantly, with Plant #6 currently in the final stages. What follows is a detailed update on these projects.

### Plant #6

Previous tests had consistently indicated that Hicksville water was well within the water quality standards established by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State of New York.

However, we preemptively decided to update the nitrate-removal treatment system to ensure continual high quality.

After the completion of the nitrate-treatment work, our tests confirmed that water quality has surpassed both state and EPA standards.



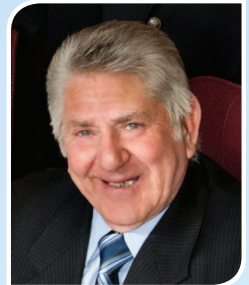
Plant #6 is now in the final inspection stages, which will conclude with a visit by the Department of Health (DOH). The DOH officials will inspect our water samples and take additional samples of their own, prior to approving the installation in accordance with the design.

### Plant #1

Planning for treatment upgrades at Plant #1 is in the intermediate stages. In April, the project was awarded to the various contractors who will complete the work, and groundbreaking is scheduled to occur within the next 30-60 days. Projects will include (1) installing a nitrate-removal treatment system to increase the level of protection against potential contaminants, (2) upgrading the volatile organic compounds (VOC) air-stripping equipment, and (3) performing maintenance on the existing wells to bring them back to their original-design production.



### COMMISSIONERS:



Nicholas J. Brigandi  
*Chairman*



Karl M. Schweitzer  
*Treasurer*



Warren Uss  
*Secretary*

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

# New Radio Read Meters for Homes and Businesses

In April, Hicksville Water District began changing manual meters over to radio read meters for the over 15,550 residents and businesses Districtwide. This transition, part of the District's multi-year capital plan, is expected to be completed within the next three to five years — at no cost to taxpayers.

Currently, Hicksville Water District employees travel house-to-house and business-to-business to obtain meter readings. The radio read meters use transmitters, allowing employees to take readings as they drive or walk down the streets. These new meters are more reliable, reduce labor costs, identify leaks and enable quicker and more accurate billing.

This seamless transition will be completed at little or no inconvenience to home and business owners. Residents will be notified when crews are in their areas, and the District's technicians will aim to minimize any disturbances. This transition is a necessity; if residents are not home for work crews to perform the meter replacement, the crews will leave an appointment request form.

In addition to enhancing the accuracy and efficiency of service, the new radio read meters will allow the District to monitor the system more closely.

## Simple Steps You Can Take to Avoid Water Waste and Save Money

The Environmental Protection Agency reports that water consumption in the United States has tripled as population has doubled in the last 50 years. To that end, the need to conserve water is becoming more critical each day. According to a study conducted by National Geographic, 14 percent of indoor water use is accounted for by water leaks. Simply repairing the leaky drains, faucets and toilets around the house will minimize your water use.

Hicksville Water District Board of Commissioners Nicholas Brigandi, Karl M. Schweitzer and Warren Uss urge residents to inspect the fixtures in their homes for possible water loss that can increase the monthly bill.

"Leaks in the home account for an average of about 10,000 gallons of water lost every year," said Chairman Brigandi. "It's important to check fixtures regularly for potential leaks, which can lead to a dramatic increase in monthly water bills."

A leak the size of a pinhole can waste more than 4,000 gallons of water per month. Check for leaks in toilets, dripping faucets and other leaking valves throughout your home. Additionally, installing water-efficient appliances can reduce water use by 35,000 gallons per year in a single household.



### These quick-fix tips will help prevent excess water use or water loss:

- Replacing the rubber flapper in your toilet when it is worn out is an easy way to avoid wasting water; flappers in need of replacement are one of the most common reasons for leaking toilets.
- Ensure a tight connection between your garden hose and the spigot. Making sure the hose is fully off after use will also reduce water waste.
- Tighten connections on showerheads if leaks appear after the shower is off.



# 2012 drinking water quality report

HICKSVILLE WATER DISTRICT  
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY IDENTIFICATION NO. 2902829

## ANNUAL WATER SUPPLY REPORT

MAY 2013

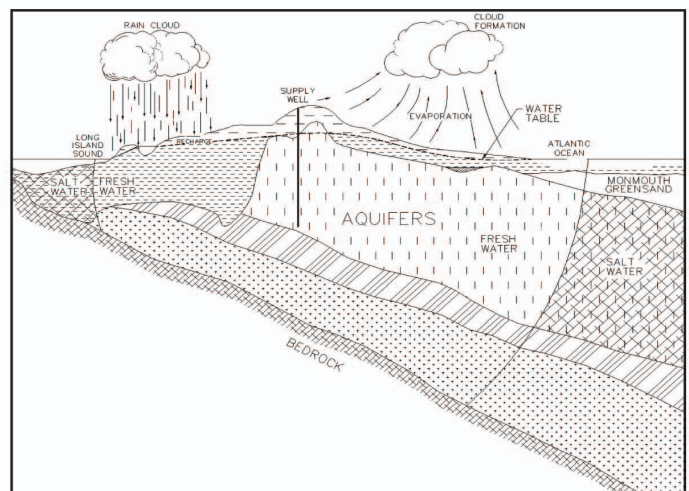
The Hicksville Water District is pleased to present this year's Water Quality Report. The report is required to be delivered to all residents of our District in compliance with Federal and State regulations. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We also want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water supply. The Board of Water Commissioners and the District employees are committed to ensuring that you and your family receive the highest quality water.

## SOURCE OF OUR WATER

The source of water for the District is groundwater pumped from 15 wells located throughout the community that are drilled into the Magohty aquifer beneath Long Island, as shown on the adjacent figure. Generally, the water quality of the aquifer is good-to-excellent, although there are localized areas of contamination.

In order to ensure that our tap water is safe to drink, the State and the EPA prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Similarly, the State Health Department's and the FDA's regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health as tap water.

The population served by the Hicksville Water District during 2012 was 48,000. The total amount of water withdrawn from the aquifer in 2012 was 2.31 billion gallons, of which approximately 92.1% was billed directly to consumers, 1.4% was used for flushing, 4.8% was lost to system breaks and leaks and 1.7% was used for system testing to waste (total 100% accounted for water). The District has enacted a rigorous leak detection and system repair program to minimize water loss due to leaks and breaks.



THE LONG ISLAND AQUIFER SYSTEM

## WATER TREATMENT

The Hicksville Water District provides treatment at all wells to improve the quality of the water pumped prior to distribution to the consumer. The pH of the pumped water is adjusted upward to reduce corrosive action between the water and water mains and in-house plumbing by the addition of sodium hydroxide. Air stripping treatment units are located at Plant Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 9. The District also adds small amounts of calcium hypochlorite (chlorine) as a disinfection agent and to prevent growth of bacteria in the water distribution system. A nitrate removal system is currently being utilized at Plant No. 8 and a similar nitrate removal treatment system has been constructed at Plant No. 6. A granular activated carbon (GAC) system is employed at Plant No. 11.

## WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES

The underground water system of Long Island has more than enough water for present water demands. However, saving water will ensure that our future generations will always have a safe and abundant water supply.

In 2012, the Hicksville Water District continued to implement a water conservation program in order to minimize any unnecessary water use. The pumpage for 2012 was 2.9 percent less than in 2011. This decrease in pumpage can most likely be attributed to a slightly cooler and wetter weather of 2012.

Residents of the District can also implement their own water conservation measures such as retrofitting plumbing fixtures with low flow restrictors, modifying automatic lawn sprinklers to include rain sensors, repairing leaks in the home, installing water conservation fixtures/appliances and maintaining a daily awareness of water conservation in their personal habits. In addition, the Nassau County Lawn Sprinkler Regulations are still in effect. Besides protecting our precious underground water supply, water conservation will produce a cost savings to the consumer in terms of both water and energy bills (hot water).

## COST OF WATER

The District utilizes a step billing schedule as shown with the average consumer being billed at \$0.90 per 1,000 gallons.

### QUARTERLY WATER RATES

Consumption (gallons)	Charges
Up to 10,000	\$7.50 minimum
11,000 - 30,000	\$0.90/thousand gallons
31,000 - 50,000	\$1.15/thousand gallons
51,000 - 70,000	\$1.65/thousand gallons
Over 71,000	\$2.25/thousand gallons

## WATER QUALITY

In accordance with State regulations, the Hicksville Water District routinely monitors your drinking water for numerous parameters. We test your drinking water for coliform bacteria, turbidity, inorganic contaminants, lead and copper, nitrate, volatile organic contaminants, total trihalomethanes and synthetic organic contaminants. Over 135 separate parameters are tested for in each of our wells numerous times per year. The table presented on page 3 depicts which parameters or contaminants were detected in the water supply. It should be noted that many of these parameters are naturally found in all Long Island drinking water and do not pose any adverse health effects.

## CONTACTS FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are pleased to report that our drinking water is safe and meets all Federal and State requirements. If you have any questions about this report or the Hicksville Water District, please contact Water District Superintendent Anthony Iannone at (516) 931-0184 or the Nassau County Department of Health at (516) 227-9692. We want our valued customers to be informed about our water system. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled Board meetings. They are normally held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office.

The Hicksville Water District routinely monitors for different parameters and possible contaminants in your drinking water as required by Federal and State laws. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some impurities. It's important to remember that the presence of these impurities does not necessarily pose a health risk. For more information on contamination and potential health risks, please contact the USEPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to disease causing microorganisms or pathogens in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care provider about their drinking water. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen

the risk to infection by Cryptosporidium, Giardia and other microbial pathogens are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

The USEPA established a Lead and Copper Rule that required all public water suppliers to sample and test for lead and copper at the tap. The first testing was required in 1992. All results were excellent indicating that the District's corrosion control treatment program was effective in preventing the leaching of lead and copper from your home's plumbing into your drinking water. The same testing is repeated every three years and was last conducted in 2011. Results of the 2011 testing also were excellent.

Some of the water from the Hicksville Water District has elevated levels of nitrates, but well below the maximum contaminant level of 10.0 parts per million. Nitrate in drinking water at levels about 10 ppm is a health risk for infants of less than six months of age. High nitrate levels in drinking water can cause blue baby syndrome. The source of the nitrates is the nitrogen in fertilizers and from on-site septic systems. If you are caring for an infant you should ask advice from your health care provider.



## 2012 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT - TABLE OF DETECTED PARAMETERS

Contaminants	Violation (Yes/No)	Date of Sample	Level Detected (Maximum Range)	Unit Measurement	MCLG	Regulatory Limit (MCL or AL)	Likely Source of Contaminant
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>							
Copper	No	June - September 2011	ND - 0.14 <sup>(1)</sup>	mg/l	1.3	AL = 1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Lead	No	June - September 2011	ND - 1.05 <sup>(1)</sup>	ug/l	0	AL = 15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Sodium	No	09/24/12	5.6 - 25.4	mg/l	n/a	No MCL <sup>(2)</sup>	Naturally occurring
Chloride	No	09/19/12	6.5 - 38.3	mg/l	n/a	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring
Calcium	No	09/19/12	2.6 - 18.0	mg/l	None	None	Naturally occurring
Iron	No	09/13/12	ND - 60	ug/l	n/a	MCL = 300	Naturally occurring
Nitrate	No	12/20/13	2.9 - 5.2	mg/l	10	MCL = 10	Runoff from fertilizer and leaching from septic tanks and sewage
Magnesium	No	09/19/12	1.3 - 4.8	mg/l	n/a	None	Naturally occurring
Barium	No	09/19/12	ND - 0.02	mg/l	n/a	MCL = 2.0	Naturally occurring
Nickel	No	09/12/12	0.6 - 4.0	ug/l	n/a	MCL - 100	Naturally occurring
Sulfate	No	09/19/12	ND - 21.9	mg/l	n/a	MCL = 250	Naturally occurring
<b>Synthetic Organic Contaminants Including Pesticides and Herbicides</b>							
None Detected	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>							
Tetrachloroethene	No	08/09/12	ND - 3.6	ug/l	0	MCL = 5	Industrial/Commercial discharge
Trichloroethene	No	08/07/12	ND - 2.1	ug/l	0	MCL = 5	Industrial/Commercial discharge
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	No	08/09/12	ND - 0.7	ug/l	0	MCL = 5	Industrial/Commercial discharge
1,1-Dichloroethane	No	05/09/12	ND - 0.6	ug/l	0	MCL = 5	Industrial/Commercial discharge
Total Trihalomethanes	No	06/12/12	ND - 6.8	mg/l	0	MCL = 80	Disinfection By-Products
<b>Radionuclides</b>							
Gross Alpha	No	10/15/12	ND - 2.30	pCi/L	n/a	MCL = 15	Naturally occurring
Gross Beta	No	10/16/12	0.1 - 3.69	pCi/L	n/a	MCL = 50	Naturally occurring
Radium 228	No	07/18/11	ND - 1.66	pCi/L	n/a	NO MCL	Naturally occurring
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>							
Pechlorate	No	04/10/12	ND - 5.4	ug/l	0	AL = 18 <sup>(3)</sup>	Fertilizer
<b>Microbiological</b>							
Total Coliform	No	09/25/12	1 positive sample out of 64 samples collected in the month of September <sup>(4)</sup>	Positive or Negative	n/a	MCL = More than 5% of monthly samples are positive	Commonly found in the environment

### Definitions:

**Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL)** - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible.

**Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG)** - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

**Action Level (AL)** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

**Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - Corresponds to one part of liquid in one million parts of liquid (parts per million - ppm).

**Micrograms per liter (ug/l)** - Corresponds to one part of liquid in one billion parts of liquid (parts per billion - ppb).

**Non-Detects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the constituent is not present.

**pCi/L** - pico Curies per Liter is a measure of radioactivity in water.

<sup>(1)</sup> - During 2011, we collected and analyzed 32 samples for lead and copper. The 90% percentile level is presented in the table. The action levels for lead and copper were not exceeded at any site. The next round of sampling and testing will occur in 2014.

<sup>(2)</sup> - No MCL has been established for sodium. However, 20 mg/l is a recommended guideline for people on high restricted sodium diets and 270 mg/l for those on moderate sodium diets.

<sup>(3)</sup> - Perchlorate is an unregulated contaminant. However, the NYS Dept. of Health has established an action level of 18.0 ug/l.

<sup>(4)</sup> - Total coliform bacteria was detected in routine monthly compliance samples collected within our distribution system. Total Coliform was not detected in additional sampling subsequently collected. Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other potentially harmful bacteria may be present.

## SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT

The NYSDOH, with assistance from the local health department, has completed a source water assessment for this system, based on available information. Possible and actual threats to this drinking water source were evaluated. The source water assessment includes a susceptibility rating based on the risk posed by each potential source of contamination and how rapidly contaminants can move through the subsurface to the wells. The susceptibility of a water supply well to contamination is dependent upon both the presence of potential sources of contamination within the well's contributing area and the likelihood that the contaminant can travel through the environment to reach the well. The susceptibility rating is an estimate of the potential for contamination of the source water, it does not mean that the water delivered to consumers is, or will become contaminated. Please refer to section "Water Quality" for a list of the contaminants that have been detected. The source water assessments provide resource managers with additional information for protecting source waters into the future.

Our drinking water is derived from 15 wells. The source water assessment has rated most of the wells as having a very high susceptibility to industrial solvents and all of the wells as having a high susceptibility to nitrates. The very high susceptibility to industrial solvents is due primarily to point sources of contamination related to transportation routes and commercial/industrial facilities and related activities in the assessment area. The high susceptibility to nitrate contamination is attributable to unsewered, high density residential land use and related practices, in the assessment area, such as fertilizing lawns.

A copy of the assessment, including a map of the assessment area, can be reviewed by contacting the District Office.

The Hicksville Water District conducts over 10,000 water quality tests throughout the year, testing for over 130 different contaminants which have been undetected in our water supply including:

Arsenic	Dinoseb	Methylene Chloride
Cadmium	Dalapon	Trans-1,2-Dichloroethene
Chromium	Picloram	2,2-Dichloropropane
Fluoride	Dicamba	Bromochloromethane
Mercury	Pentachlorophenol	1,1-Dichloropropene
Selenium	Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	1,2-Dichloroethane
Silver	bis(2-Ethylhexyl)adipate	1,2-Dichloropropane
Zinc	bis(2-Ethylhexyl)phthalate	Dibromomethane
Color	Hexachlorobenzene	Trans-1,3-Dichloropropene
Turbidity	Benzo(A)Pyrene	cis-1,3-Dichloropropene
Odor	Aldicarb Sulfone	1,1,2-Trichloroethane
Manganese	Aldicarb sulfoxide	1,3-Dichloropropane
Ammonia	Aldicarb	Chlorobenzene
Nitrite	Total Aldicarbs	1,1,1,2-Tetrachloroethane
Detergents (MBAS)	Oxamyl	Bromobenzene
Free Cyanide	Methomyl	1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane
Antimony	3-Hydroxycarbofuran	1,2,3-Trichloropropane
Beryllium	Carbofuran	2-Chlorotoluene
Thallium	Carbaryl	4-Chlorotoluene
Lindane	Glyphosate	1,2-Dichlorobenzene
Heptachlor	Diquat	1,3-Dichlorobenzene
Aldrin	Endothall	1,4-Dichlorobenzene
Heptachloro Epoxide	1,2-Dibromoethane (EDB)	1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene
Dieldrin	1,2-Dibromo-3-Chl.Propane	Hexachlorobutadiene
Endrin	Dioxin	1,2,3-Trichlorobenzene
Methoxychlor	Chloroacetic Acid	Toluene
Toxaphene	Bromoacetic Acid	Ethylbenzene
Chlordane	Dichloroacetic Acid	M,P-Xylene
Total PCBs	Trichloroacetic Acid	O-Xylene
Propachlor	Dibromoacetic Acid	Styrene
Alachlor	Total Haloacetic Acid	Isopropylbenzene (Cumene)
Simazine	Bromodichloromethane	N-Propylbenzene
Atrazine	Radium 226	1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene
Metolachlor	Radium 228	Tert-Butylbenzene
Metribuzin	Vinyl Chloride	1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene
Butachlor	Bromomethane	Sec-Butylbenzene
2,4-D	Chloroethane	4-Isopropyltoluene (P-Cumene)
2,4,5-TP (Silvex)	Chlorodifluoromethane	N-Butylbenzene

Copies of the Supplemental Data Package, which includes the water quality data for each of our supply wells utilized during 2012, are available at the Hicksville Water District office which is located at 4 Dean Street, Hicksville New York and the local Public Library.

We, at the Hicksville Water District, work around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap throughout the community. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water resources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

# Backflow Testing and Rain Sensors Help Ensure a Plentiful and Clean Water Supply All Summer Long

As the summer heat approaches, the Hicksville Water District commissioners remind residents to conserve water while using sprinkler systems. Using too much water will increase your water bill, deplete the water supply and flood your lawn.

## *What is the best way to maintain a lush, green lawn and keep your flowers nourished?*

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Hicksville Water District Chairman Nicholas Brigandi suggests installing rain sensors on the sprinkler system to ensure that the automatic sprinklers will not turn on while it's raining. The sensors help determine when enough rainfall has occurred for the sprinkler to skip its next irrigation cycle. Rainwater sensors are relatively inexpensive and can save homeowners money overall.

Keeping your lawn healthy requires one to two inches of water weekly; this amount of water accounts for rainfall. Chairman Nicholas Brigandi reminds residents to pay attention to the weather, pointing out that there is no necessity to water a lawn if there is rain in the forecast.

Additionally, the Board of Commissioners reminds residents that spring is a great time to have annual backflow testing done. Backflow is a hazardous situation that can threaten the safety of the public water supply. When pollutants are near the sprinkler

head, the drinking water supply is susceptible to contamination. This problem can be avoided by using backflow prevention devices that stop potential contaminants from entering the public water system.

"New York State requires that residents have their backflow systems tested annually," said Chairman Brigandi. "As we prepare and fertilize our lawns and gardens for the summer, it is crucial that we work together to preserve our clean water supply."



## Girl Scout Troop Visits HWD to Learn How Water Travels From Ground to Faucet

Brownie Troop #3362 of the Girl Scouts of Nassau County visited Hicksville Water District in April to take an hour-long tour of the plant's facilities. Commissioner Warren Uss and Superintendent Anthony Iannone explained how groundwater is extracted from the earth and dispersed to our homes. The seven- and eight-year old girls enjoyed their time at the District, as they learned about the filtration process using maps and graphics. To end the afternoon, the girls took home coloring books and reusable water bottles as a reminder to use our most precious resource wisely.



**Hicksville Water District**

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Hicksville, NY 11801 USA

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

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**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  
Warren Uss, 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.***

## Odd/Even Watering Schedule in Effect for Summer 2013

In recent years, Americans have become increasingly aware of their environmental footprint. Consumers are adopting the practice of carrying reusable shopping bags, paperless banking is becoming standard, and electric and hybrid cars are surging in popularity. To help lessen the negative impact on our environment, the Hicksville Water District commissioners have mandated an odd/even watering schedule for all Hicksville residents.

The program is simple. If your home address ends in an odd number, you may water on odd days; if your address ends in an even number, you may water on even days. For example: the Hicksville Public Library is located at 169 Jerusalem Ave. The watering days for the library during the first week of July will be the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. The Hicksville High School address is 180 Division Avenue. The watering days for the high school for that same week are the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. Also keep in mind that, per a Nassau County ordinance, watering is not permitted between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. However, altering your schedule to include an evening watering regimen will ensure that your lawn remains healthy and your sprinklers work at maximum efficiency.

Although the water supply in Hicksville remains strong, an odd/even watering schedule is an important facet of a sustainable water conservation program. We appreciate your cooperation in helping the Water District do its part in environmental stewardship.