

# News from WATER AUTHORITY OF GREAT NECK NORTH

waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com

Spring 2017

## Water Rates Holding Steady

As prices for consumer goods and services go up year after year, the rates charged to consumers by the Water Authority of Great Neck North for excellent quality drinking water and top-notch customer service have remained the same. In fact, 2017 marks the ninth consecutive year

without an increase in the rate schedules for water use.

The Board of Directors is proud of its track record of fiscal responsibility and appreciative of the employees and management team for their dedication and commitment to hard work for the benefit of those served by the Authority.



## Optional Meter Change Out Program

Since the Authority completed a meter change-out program in 2014, newer technology has been developed that allows users to read their water use data via a secure online website and Smartphone app, among other convenient features.

As a courtesy to those who wish to purchase the newer meter technology now, rather than wait for the next meter change-out program, the Authority is making equipment for meters up to 2 inches available for a price of \$256, which includes installation. Interested consumers can call the Authority at (516) 487-7973 for more details and pricing for larger meters.

The Authority does not anticipate a meter change-out initiative for another 10 to 15 years.

## Capital Improvement Projects Progressing

### WELL 11A

Well 11A has been constructed to replace Well 11. Plans called for moving the well pump and motor from Well 11 to Well 11A, which has been completed. Water quality testing, required by the Nassau County Department of Health, yielded good results.



A progress meeting with the contractor and consulting engineer on the job was recently conducted to develop a plan for completing the remaining steps. The site has been graded with topsoil in preparation for new plantings and final restoration. Substantial completion of the well site redevelopment project is expected in the coming weeks.

### WATER MAIN REPLACEMENTS

In its ongoing effort to maintain its public water distribution system at peak performance level at all times, the Authority replaced approximately 3,200 linear feet of water main during 2016. In the coming year, plans are to change out another 10,000 linear feet, possibly more.

The water mains, ranging in diameter from 1-inch to 24-inches, are situated below the earth's surface and carry the drinking water throughout the Authority's 7.5 square mile service area. The Authority owns and maintains more than 117 miles of water mains that carry water to approximately 32,000 consumers.

### Water Authority of Great Neck North

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

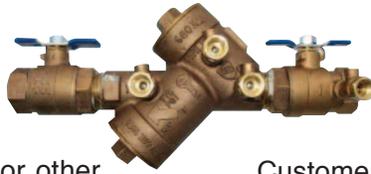
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# Backflow Devices & Testing Mandatory

In the interest of public health and safety, the New York State Sanitary Code requires water suppliers to enforce regulations that backflow devices be installed with irrigation systems, hot tubs, pools, new construction or other sources that could connect non-potable water with the potable water supply. The device is critical for preventing back-siphoning or reverse flow of potentially impure water back into the public drinking water supply.

Pursuant to the Code, Authority regulations require residents to have their backflow devices tested annually by a



certified backflow tester. The paperwork must be submitted to the Authority each year by the required due date, located on the bottom of the second quarter bill.

Customers with in-ground sprinkler systems must also have their rain gauge / moisture sensors tested annually.

A link on the Authority's website home page **water-authorityofgreatnecknorth.com** provides information about the Backflow Testing Program as well as an email address **backflowprogram@wagmn.org** for the convenience of submitting annual inspection reports via email.

## Gardening Tips to Benefit Water Supply



The Town of North Hempstead is offering a series of Home Sustainability Classes at Clark Botanic Garden in Albertson, to encourage the public to conserve and protect the water supply. More information and registration, which is encouraged, are available by calling (516) 869-6311 or logging onto [recycle@northhempsteadny.gov](mailto:recycle@northhempsteadny.gov).

### Leak Inspections

If a water leak is suspected, Authority personnel will conduct a thorough inspection, free of charge for customers. Last year, 131 leaks were detected during the completion of 246 leak inspections. Homeowners are responsible to make the repairs.

### BUILD A RAIN GARDEN - 90 minutes

**Free & open to all**  
**Saturday, May 20 @ 12 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Sept. 16 @ 12:30 p.m.**

Learn from a specialist how to build a rain garden to capture stormwater from downspouts and driveways, so it can filter slowly into the ground.

### NATIVE PLANT GARDENING - 60 minutes

**Free & open to all**  
**Tuesday, May 23 @ 6:30 p.m.**  
**Saturday, Sept. 16 @ 11 a.m.**

Conserve water! Reduce fertilizers and pesticides! Learn from the president of the Long Island Native Plant Initiative how to build and select plants for native gardens.

### RECYCLE THE RAIN (Rain Barrel) - 30 minutes

**Free & open to pre-registered North Hempstead residents with ID**  
**Date: TBD**

Recycle your rainwater by saving it for your garden when the weather is dry. Discounted 50-gallon rain barrel available for \$50

### LEARN HOW TO COMPOST - 30 minutes

**Free & open to pre-registered North Hempstead residents with ID**  
**Date: TBD**

Turn your yard and kitchen waste into rich fertilizer, while reducing landfill waste and enhancing your beds without synthetic chemicals. Discounted composter available for \$75.

# Be Mindful of the METERS

It is the responsibility of the customer to protect the water meter, pit and cover. This equipment should never be disturbed or interfered with. The lid to the meter pit must remain sealed and secured at all times.

Please be reminded to instruct backflow testers, underground irrigation companies, landscapers and other workers entering the property to exercise caution to avoid dislodging the meter cover or damaging the meter. Extreme care must be used by backflow testers and underground irrigation companies when accessing meter pits. It is important that the remote meter wiring and mechanisms are not damaged, dislodged or tampered with and

## 2016 Quality Report AVAILABLE ONLINE

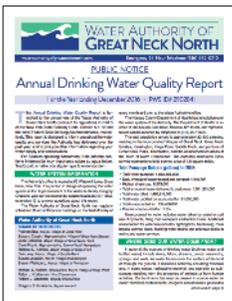
Consumers can conveniently access the Authority's 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report by logging onto [www.waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com/waterquality.pdf](http://www.waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com/waterquality.pdf).

As the report outlines, the water is tested throughout the

year by an independent laboratory for more than 135 parameters, to ensure quality standards are met without fail. The process is so exacting that contaminants in quantities as small as one-part-per-billion can be detected. That can be compared to finding a shiny copper penny in a pile of 1 billion dimes.

Results show the drinking water provided to consumer's taps is of excellent quality and has consistently met or exceeded strict federal and state standards, which are enforced by the Nassau County Department of Health.

Printed copies of the 2016 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report are available at the Authority's administrative office at 50 Watermill Lane in Great Neck. Consumers can call the Authority at (516) 487-7973 ext. 4, to receive a mailed copy.



*The Authority's Rules and Regulations states:*

“such pits must be kept dry, clean and maintained by the customer”

“in case of damage to the meter by freezing or hot water or by accident or design, the actual cost of repairs shall be borne by the customer”

the cover is left intact and secured.

Additionally, ONLY authorized Authority personnel are approved to remove, replace or alter meters. All others are prohibited from handling the meters in any way.

## CONSERVATION TIPS



*With warm weather days just around the corner, here are a few simple steps for conserving water, our most precious natural resource:*

- Add mulch or compost to the garden beds to allow irrigation to soak in, reduce evaporation, minimize weeds and protect plantings from the harsh sun.
- Consult with your landscaper or local nursery to choose grasses, shrubs, flowers and vegetables that have low water requirements or are drought-tolerant.
- Fix leaking hose connections by changing the washers.



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Monday to Friday  
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**24-Hour Emergency**  
(516) 482-0210

[waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com](http://waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com)

## Lawn Sprinkling Rules and Regs

**No watering between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.**

**Odd numbered addresses** may water on  
Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

**Even numbered addresses** may water on  
Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday.

- Sprinkling is prohibited during periods of precipitation.
- A rain gauge or moisture sensor is required for all automatic lawn irrigation.

## Water Modeling for SUSTAINABILITY

In its continuing commitment to providing the public with a continuous flow of fresh drinking water and an adequate supply for firefighting purposes, the Authority takes a proactive approach to maintaining and updating its infrastructure.

With skillful foresight and the guidance of a team of qualified industry professionals, the Authority has been maintaining its distribution system since December 31, 1989, while consistently meeting the strictest government water quality standards in the country.

Consulting engineers are currently in the planning stages of performing a hydrological model, an invaluable tool for updating the Authority's ongoing capital improvement plans to insure water quality and quantity for future generations.