



# Water Talk

## Conservation & Sustainability

We pride ourselves on staying ahead of the curve with water conservation, so when the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced plans for a 15% reduction in usage over the next three to four years, we were extremely pleased.



"Our proactive program starts with continual infrastructure maintenance, including leak detection and prevention," Commissioner DePalo stated, "and includes public education through use of our newsletters and our website." Future issues will continue

to include hints and recommendations for conserving water season by season to achieve greater sustainability in our District.



Spring is here. . . and summer is not far behind. Warmer weather means increased outdoor usage for the biggest consumer of water. . . lawns. Summer lawn watering amounts range from two to five times the usage in other months! "Too much watering is detrimental to lawns," Commissioner DePalo said. "It blocks oxygen absorption, makes roots more susceptible to disease and magnifies insect damage. So less is more."

Here are several simple ways to promote healthier lawns and gardens with less water this summer

- ▶ **PLANT WISELY:** Add bushes, shrubs, flowers and trees to reduce grassy areas and conserve water.
- ▶ **SPRING-BACK TEST:** Never assume grass needs water because it's hot. Step on the turf, and if it springs back, it doesn't need water.
- ▶ **USE SENSORS:** Soil moisture sensors will reveal the amount of moisture at root level and discourage overwatering.
- ▶ **KEEP LAWNS LONG:** Longer grass promotes deeper root growth resulting in a more drought-resistant lawn, less evaporation and fewer weeds. Just raise your lawn mower blade.
- ▶ **GIVE YOUR HOSE A BREAK:** Sweep driveways, sidewalks and steps rather than hosing them off.
- ▶ **INSPECT REGULARLY:** Check for leaks at your spigot connection and sprinkler systems.
- ▶ **WATER WISELY:** Consider upgrading your irrigation system controller with an EPA Watersense-labeled automatic irrigation controller. You could conserve thousands of gallons and lower your water bill in the bargain!

## FULLY COMPLIANT!

New York State's Tax Cap Law took effect in 2012 and limits tax levy increases to 2% or the inflation rate, whichever is less. Once again, the District tax rate has remained below the New York State 2% tax cap. Essential to this is pragmatic management of resources and infrastructure, typified by preventive maintenance. The District's upgrading and maintenance of systems will continue according to plan throughout 2018 to ensure a plentiful supply of excellent water quality for all.



# ODD/EVEN WATERING: PLEASE VOLUNTEER!

As part of our commitment to sustainability and conservation, we have promoted voluntary odd/even water usage for many years. Summer usage can increase five times over due to lawn watering, and this puts quite a strain on our systems and our aquifer. So observing a voluntary Odd/Even lawn watering schedule is extremely helpful and simple to implement.

- **HOUSE NUMBER IS ODD...WATER ONLY ON ODD NUMBERED DAYS.**
- **HOUSE NUMBER IS EVEN...WATER ONLY ON EVEN NUMBERED DAYS.**

Thank you for helping us to conserve!



# MILESTONES

Maintaining a reliable supply of high quality water for more than 80,000 people requires a true team effort. The District recently recognized three individuals for their contributions to this effort as they marked milestone achievements.

Dianne Rapczyk celebrated 20 years of service and has been SHWD Office Manager since 2001. Diane Gerdes, Billing Administrator, and Mike McGovern, Maintenance Mechanic, both marked 10 years of service. The District is grateful for your effort, dedication and teamwork all these years. Thank you!



**Dianne Rapczyk**  
**20 YEARS**



**Diane Gerdis**  
**10 YEARS**



**Mike McGovern**  
**10 YEARS**

*"I wish to have no connection with any ship that does not sail fast, for I intend to go in harm's way."*

— John Paul Jones

## SALUTING U.S. VETS

What the famed Revolutionary War hero did not know was that his words "In Harm's Way" would come to describe all those who have served our nation in all the branches of the military. Each year Memorial Day reminds us of the great dedication of generations of veterans and active military personnel the world over. The South Huntington Water District salutes all the men and women who have served so admirably. We thank you for all the sacrifices you have made, the hardships you have endured in defense of this great nation... and every time that you have put yourself in harm's way.

## WaterTalk

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Ten-Time Winner of Suffolk County's  
**"Best Tasting Water"**

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