



ALBERTSON

WATER DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 5, Number 2

PROGRESS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Providing uninterrupted water to nearly 14,000 residents each and every day means that preventive maintenance is part of our ongoing program...each and every day. Being proactive conserves time and dollars, and the AWD's plan includes maintenance of active wells, ground storage tanks, an elevated tank and 450 fire hydrants. Oh, and 50 miles of underground water mains too. Here's a quick update of ongoing District projects that deliver water to your door.

- The upgrades to Wells #4 and #5 have been completed, and Well #3A has been drilled. Its new well house building has been constructed and is stylistically consistent with other area buildings. No sore thumb here!



- The storage tank at Hollow Court was built during the Eisenhower presidency in 1957 and has certainly served residents well through the years. The 1.5 million-gallon tank's interior and exterior refurbishment, which is in observation of current and pending OSHA regulations, is underway and on schedule for Fall 2015.
- Phase I of our radio wave technology water meter replacement program has been completed and about one third of all meters have been replaced. The meters transmit a radio signal containing a meter number, and a meter reading is detected by AWD via radio receiver. The meter readings from those transmissions are used to generate water bills with computer accuracy, offering increased privacy, safety and potential cost savings. Commissioner Richard Ockovic commented, "We're committed to changing over every water resident to radio wave

technology. It's one of those things that is good for all involved. We'll continue to update the community on progress until all 4,000 meters have been installed."

- As noted in previous newsletters, the McKinley Avenue road paving project is a joint effort between the Albertson Water District and the Town of North Hempstead Department of Public Works. The Albertson Water District will be making infrastructure upgrades through the installation of 8-inch water mains to provide greater water capacity. When completed, the Town of North Hempstead will start the road repaving project. This coordinated effort between both agencies will result in cost savings to our residents.



Commissioner Ockovic



ARE OUR WINTERS MORE **UNPREDICTABLE** THAN EVER?

No one knows when a snowstorm that could bury fire hydrants will hit Long Island, but in the interest of public safety, the Commissioners kindly remind residents to watch out for and remove snow and ice around hydrants. This clearing will enable emergency personnel to readily spot the hydrants' white reflective tops from all directions. Remember every second is vitally important to firefighters putting out fires.

WATER WISDOM FOR WICKED WINTERS!

- * All outside spigots should be turned off from inside and the lines drained. Leave the spigots open.
- * Shut down and thoroughly drain all lawn sprinkler systems.
- * Insulate your water pipes, especially in unheated areas. This will prevent freezing and bursting and also minimize the amount of water run before hot water emerges.
- * For safety, know where your shut-off valve and water pipes are located.
- * All outside hoses should be disconnected and drained to prevent freezing.
- * Store outdoor hoses to prevent cracking.
- * Check meter pit covers to assure that they are securely bolted down and intact. Report any problems immediately to the District.



MILESTONES:

Bob Portelli has retired from the AWD. In his 25 years on the job, Bob has seen many a tough time, including hurricanes, blizzards, freezing weather and more recently, Superstorm Sandy, and he has repaired a lot of water main breaks. On behalf of the AWD and the Albertson community, good luck Bob, and we thank you for your service.

NSWCA UPDATE:



Commissioner Howard Abbondondelo has been actively representing Albertson with the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association (NSWCA) (<http://www.nswcawater.org>) for many years. His service has included serving as NSWCA President in 2014. The venerable organization was chartered in 1981 and promotes best practices and environmental excellence. Howard is pictured at a recent LI Water Conference meeting with Senator Chuck Schumer and Nassau County Legislator Judy Jacobs, respectively.



THANKS HOWARD FOR A JOB WELL DONE!





All tax dollars dedicated to producing water

As we approach our 100th year of supplying a safe, plentiful and uninterrupted water supply, we thank Albertson residents for their support of local control. Commissioner Ken Vey noted, "We commissioners are elected by the people of Albertson directly. We monitor our budgets as judiciously as we maintain our infrastructure...because we are products of the Albertson community, elected by Albertson voters to be stewards of Long Island's aquifers and Earth's greatest natural resource."

Commissioner Ockovic added, "We take our jobs very, very seriously. Even with Superstorm Sandy, there were no interruptions, something all of us at the District are very proud of. Most people don't realize that AWD personnel are on call 24/7, every day."



Commissioners Abbondondelo, Vey & Ockovic

Commissioner Abbondondelo concurred, "Local control has enabled us not only to cover the cost of production of high quality water, but to do it exclusively for the AWD community, not for elsewhere in the county. Albertson taxpayer dollars stay in Albertson to cover services, new technologies and infrastructure updates, and all expenditures and distribution are public record."

Local control assures a level of involvement and results that outsiders can never match. And AWD water rates remain BELOW the national average.

Costly zip code? Not your water!



According to a recent Newsday article that examined the cost of housing relative to residents' income, Albertson ranked 2nd in the Top 10 most costly ZIP codes in America. Number crunchers examined data from the 2008-2012 U.S. Census American Community Survey, to determine this. The good news is that the average cost of water in Albertson is still about 2% of a typical tax assessment, representing the lowest cost of all utilities! And the best news is that the first 10,000 gallons you use still costs only \$20.04.

Coloring the world?

Ever wonder about that colorful "graffiti" that occasionally appears on local roads? Our water mains share subterranean space with telephone lines, electrical wires and cable TV, so we have to know the location of underground utilities. The color mark-outs tell us exactly that.

Blue paint = Water

Red paint = Electrical

Yellow paint = Natural gas

Orange paint = Telephone

MCKINLEY AV.

SEARINGTOWN RD.

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AWD Election December 9, 2014

The election of an Albertson Water District Commissioner will be held on Tuesday, December 9. The term of office is 3 years beginning on January 1, 2015, and running through December 31, 2017.

WHERE TO VOTE: Voting will be held at the
Albertson Fire House
100 I.U. Willets Road, Albertson, NY

TIME: 3:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

ELIGIBILITY: To be eligible to vote, you must be:

- A registered voter of the Albertson Water District
- A resident of the Albertson Water District at least 30 days prior to the election date

For more information, please call our office at (516) 621-3610 or see our website www.albertsonwater.org.

