

# WEST NECK

Newsletter #17



# WATER DISTRICT

July 2012

## Board Members

Ann Dunbar, Andreas Hommert,  
Michael Luppino, Lori  
Beard Raymond, Lisa Shaw

## General Questions

Judy Meringer and Barbara Bloom  
at 749-0291

## Emergencies

John Hallman, Plant Operator  
749-0195

# Summer 2012 Newsletter

## WHERE WAS JANUARY'S NEWSLETTER?

If you missed it, it is because there was no news except an estimated progress report on the Mains Project, so we decided to skip it.

## STATE OF THE AQUIFER

Once again, we need to address water conservation measures. We had an extremely dry winter followed by a pretty dry spring and, for a time, all of Suffolk County was covered by a drought advisory. We were worried. Now, the heavens have opened up and all our rain barrels are full to overflowing. What does it mean? The Island Water Advisory Committee met in June to review the results of monitoring Island wells and they determined that levels are still low. How can that be? The answer is all that water does not reach the aquifer. It is soaked up by trees and bushes, starved for moisture. All the locust tree leaves blowing everywhere? The trees are dry and can't hold onto their leaves. So, despite our rains, especially this year, please do follow every conservation trick you know. We hope we will not have to place restrictions on your water use but if we must, we will. Until then, remember that sprinklers or other automatic watering devices are prohibited. Only watering with a hand-held hose is permitted. Soaker hoses are, contrary to popular belief, NOT a means of effective watering and are also incredibly expensive. Periodically, check your toilet tank to be sure water is not "running;" you can see it but not hear it. Turn the tap off when you are not actually using water. If you need hot water, use the water that runs until it's hot to fill your Britta or humidifier and for plants or bird baths -- at the start, before it is too hot. Yes, it requires that you pay attention and take extra care, but that is preferable to running out at some point.

## MAINS REPLACEMENT

There is finally news to report as residents at home in mid-December can attest. As noted in a previous Newsletter, the Board had been notified that government grants which we had hoped would help us with about half the replacement cost were not going to be available. We had long known it was an "iffy" proposition but continued to put surplus monies into a Capital Reserve Fund to cover our share, just in case. By last summer, we had enough to at least start the replacement on our own and the Board voted to do that. We allocated \$74,000 of the reserve to the project budget, retaining enough to cover an emergency situation. We put the project out for bids and received four, three from off-Island companies and one from Anderson Plumbing and Heating on the Island. The latter bid was lowest and was accepted. The distance covered was



about 1,000 feet, from the corner of West Neck and Shore Roads toward Behringer Lane. Work commenced the week before Christmas and concluded in just over a week's time, with the exception of finishing asphalt work which was done in May. The project was completed slightly under budget but this phase also covered all the Engineering fees related to obtaining Suffolk County Water Authority approval for the entire job. Completion would extend from where we stopped this time to Behringer to Sterns Point Road and right to connect to the end of the first replaced section about 7 years ago. We also need to replace the line from the pump house to Menantic and past Grady Riley's. This section just completed is the one in which we had experienced the most leaks and breaks so we are hopeful that will considerably reduce future costly repairs.

### **COSTLY REPAIRS**

For almost a year, Operations Manager Hallman had known that there was a major leak somewhere in the system, one in which we were losing about one million gallons over the year. The loss in terms of wasted treated and pumped water was considerable. But where was the water going? The only logical place was in the line between Stearns Point Road and the Sunset Beach property, a large field in which water could disperse into the ground and into the pond and never be detected. So one day, Hallman with the assistance of Gene Shepherd and Will Anderson, combed every inch of that hill until, by the end of the day, they found what they were looking for. They repaired the line and installed markers so it is now clear where that line runs.

### **FOR SALE PROPERTIES**

The District includes a number of properties that are on the market. If yours is one of them, please be sure that your broker knows the house is served by West Neck Water and that there are Rules and Regulations governing that service that a prospective buyer should be aware of. And it is to your advantage as a seller to be sure your broker is aware of all the benefits of being served by West Neck Water. Also, new owners should be advised to tell Barbara or Judy at Town Hall what their current contact information is: address, phones and e-mail.