



THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GARDEN CITY PARK WATER DISTRICT



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ANSWERING THE CALL TO FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

We would like to remind all our consumers, both private and business, that the Garden City Park Water District (GCPWD) stands ready to provide the highest level of customer service, 24 hours a day...7 days a week...365 days a year, and there are never additional costs for this around-the-clock service.

The Garden City Park Water District runs a fiscally sound operation and is held accountable to you, our consumers, by law. Rates are set by actual operating expenses. The District is not motivated by profit.

When we say 'fiscally sound' we want to point out that our water rates have not increased in almost 20 years! What's more, we are locally operated and managed and the staff at GCPWD takes extra care and diligence at every turn.

Proactive Measures Make Sense

One of the main ways we 'stay ahead of the game' to save money is by performing proactive maintenance. More often than not, we can act before a potential situation arises and avoid major expenses. This principle of proactivity applies to all aspects of operations – infrastructure, capital expense items, treatment processes, vehicles, equipment, etc.



GCPWD Commissioners Chris Engel, Augustine Carnevale, and Kenneth Borchers.

Because of our operational efficiency, all new expenses are accounted for in advance and will save taxpayers money years into the future. Currently, water represents the smallest regular utility cost of all, and Garden City Park Water District Commissioners appreciate and understand that in these uncertain economic times, no one needs higher tax rates.

"We're a hard working crew and we strive to attain the highest levels of efficiency," noted Chris Engel, Water Commissioner. "Being prepared for emergencies and bad weather is a must. We pledge to fulfill our mission of maintaining and delivering an uninterrupted supply of the highest quality water to our consumers."

The District ensures public health and safety, actively promotes the conservation of our most precious resource and cooperates with all local, State and Federal authorities while always meeting consumer demand.

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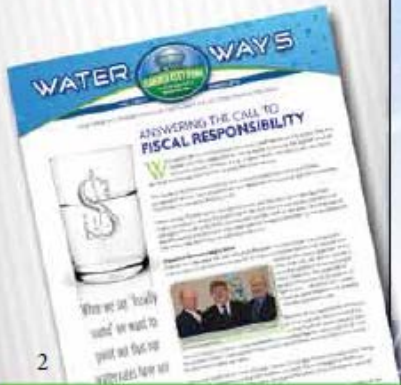


Message From The Superintendent Michael Levy

Welcome to "Water Ways", the official publication of the Garden City Park Water District. I'm proud to launch this informative communications vehicle to provide you, our consumer, with news, analysis and features that will keep you up-to-date on developments within the District.

Water Ways will deliver targeted editorial content about the District and will provide details for you on what the GCPWD does to ensure the best possible service and water supply available – at home or at your business. We'll post helpful tips for water conservation and provide you with an inside look at the people who proudly serve the District. We're open to feedback at all times and we hope you enjoy our seasonal publications.

Also for your convenience, please note our new hours of operation are 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Monday through Friday).



Energy Efficiency Within The District



Solar panels installed on Garden City Park Water District administration building will help conserve energy and lower operating costs.

Every day, enough energy falls on the earth to provide 27 years worth of power for every inhabitant! Harnessing that energy is a challenge, but a challenge that GPCWD met in 2012.

Last year the District installed solar panels on our administration building. This has lowered the District's electricity bills and reduced our consumption of fossil fuels.

As a result, it has helped us keep your water bill at a level rate, and because sunlight is our 'free' source of energy, we anticipate no increase in our energy costs within this building.

We believe that solar power is one of the most useful sources of energy for the future, and we support its application when it makes sense. There are many benefits:

- Helps keep the environment clean
- Reduces consumption of limited, expensive fossil fuels
- Lowers energy costs

Operation is simple: Sunlight is collected by roof-mounted solar modules.

This sunlight is then transformed through an inverter from DC power into AC "household" power; the form of electricity used by most standard lights, computers and appliances. During the day, you'll likely generate more power than you need.

We are conserving energy and lowering costs in other ways, too.

Prime examples are the new Super High Efficiency Boilers we have installed that are 94% efficient, capture more heat, work much faster, and are less of an expense to operate.

In the best interests of the GPCWD and all our consumers, we will continue to explore and implement new technologies and systems to maintain and improve water quality, increase efficiency and sustainability, and lower costs...all while keeping the District operating at peak performance levels.

GCPWD Water Supply Uninterrupted After HURRICANE SANDY.

When Hurricane Sandy slammed into Long Island, it caused unprecedented devastation and multiple emergencies. While many major utilities throughout the island lacked adequate preparation, communication and/or leadership, there were no failures or interruption of water service delivered from the Garden City Park Water District.

"Due to diligent preparations, our staff did a tremendous job ensuring that our consumers would have clean and safe water to drink during and after the massive storm that hit our region this past fall," said Kenneth Borchers, Water Commissioner. "Several steps have been taken to ensure that our distribution

system will continue to be vigorously monitored."

During the storm, the GCPWD had additional personnel on site and working around the clock to handle any potential emergencies that might have occurred to assure consumers that they would see little, if any, effect on their water service and delivery.

Although power outages impacted several plants and facilities, a series of emergency backup generators kept the District water supply pumping on a normal schedule. As a result, there were no reports of water loss.

New Valve Turning Machine. EXERCISING THE SYSTEM!

It may come as a surprise that the Garden City Park Water District system needs regular exercise to stay in shape!

Most of our infrastructure has been in service for as long as 90 years, but it's the exceptional building skills and materials from long ago that have kept it intact and working perfectly today. Our crews keep every part of the District in top working order, which as you can imagine, is a full-time job because of the over 75 miles of water mains involved.

Among the most critical of these parts are the control valves that regulate water flow. There are thousands of them! The integrity of the entire water system depends upon their reliable operation during routine maintenance and emergency situations.

Some of these valves are so large that turning them by manpower alone can be extremely difficult and has the potential to cause damage to the valve or injury to the worker. But the valves must be turned or 'exercised' regularly or they will become unworkable or even break.

To better maintain and protect our water, the GCPWD recently acquired a Valve Turning Machine to perform the exercising of our system. "With this new piece of equipment and technology, our crews can open and close the valves with the aid of a hydraulic actuator and an on-board computer," commented Augustine Carnevale, Water Commissioner. "This keeps the infrastructure operating freely and prevents it from 'freezing' from corrosion."

The new Valve Turning Machine's computer is so advanced that it uses the District's GIS mapping system to help locate valves with pinpoint accuracy and stores useful data for our workers to operate the valves in the future. Because of its speed and efficiency, the important business of preventive care is expedited, which means we can continue to deliver a plentiful water supply to you, our consumers, throughout the District.



Garden City Park Water District's new Valve Turning Machine.

MEET THE FUTURE OF Water Meter Reading

Garden City Park Water District meter readers working in our neighborhoods have been a familiar sight for decades. Our meter readers perform the critical role of recording the water meter readings of every household and business in order to accurately measure how much water is being used.

Transitioning to the future, meters will be read by new applications of radio wave technology that is amazingly precise and completely non-intrusive. Soon, GCPWD will be implementing a remote system, which will enable our personnel to read water meters without having to travel to your home or place of business.

THIS IS HOW IT WORKS:

Battery powered transmitters, with a life of 20 years per battery, will be placed on the water meter of each home or business to read the usage. A radio antenna will be installed strategically on GCPWD tanks and pump stations to pick up the signals from the meters. The reading will then be relayed directly to GCPWD's main computer and recorded in a database.

This new system increases efficiency and its accuracy is precise. It's also far less intrusive for water meters to be read in this manner. Installation of this new technology will start in the summer of 2013, and we hope to complete the installation program by 2016. It should be noted that this new technology will not increase consumer rates and will not impact the District's workforce in a negative way.

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Water Conservation Tips For *Summer*

With spring in full swing and summer on the way, everything is starting to bloom! Water, of course, is necessary, but keep these conservation tips in mind when it comes to watering your lawn and garden.

- **Install a spring-loaded shutoff nozzle on each garden hose to avoid water waste.**
- **Always remember to check underground sprinklers, pools and spas for leaks. If you spring a leak, get it repaired immediately to avoid costly water waste.**
- **For gardens, make small irrigation ditches along rows of plants and flowers.**
- **Even numbered addresses and non-numbered homes can water on even numbered days; odd numbered addresses can water on odd numbered days. Garden City Park Ordinance prohibits watering between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.**



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