



District Newsletter

Spring 2014

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www.townofriverheadny.gov

CELEBRATING THE 100th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT



Many things have changed over the past 100 years. In 1914, Woodrow Wilson was President, Babe Ruth made his major league debut pitching for the Boston Red Sox and World War I began when Austria-Hungary declared war on Serbia. In Riverhead, there was a concern that the privately-run Riverhead Water Company needed to make significant improvements to increase water pressure and improve fire flow capacities to service the “village” area. But in April 1914, the Town Board held a public meeting and established the Riverhead Water District. That changed the water supply from a privately run system to a municipal system.

From providing water to several hundred homes and businesses in 1914 to a total population of over 35,000

Town-wide some 100 years later, the District has continued to meet the water supply needs of the growing Riverhead community.

Today the District maintains over 230 miles of water main, 17 supply wells, 1,500 fire hydrants, 5 water storage tanks and pumps over 2.5 billion gallons of water every year. These water facilities have a replacement value of over \$150 million dollars.

Without a safe and reliable supply of public water, the Town of Riverhead could not have developed into the great place to live, work and play as it is today.

The Riverhead Water District will continue to provide a high quality source of water to the residents of the District at a reasonable cost.

Sean M. Walter
SUPERVISOR, TOWN OF RIVERHEAD



Pulaski Street Tank

***Riverhead Water District - Providing Water To The Community
For 100 Years!***

HISTORY OF RIVERHEAD WATER DISTRICT



Route 58 Elevated Storage Tank

After the Civil War, water for homes, businesses and fire fighting in the village of Riverhead was taken from wells, ponds and fresh water section of the Peconic River. In 1892, a private enterprise established the Riverhead Water Company with the construction of a well, water mains and water tower.

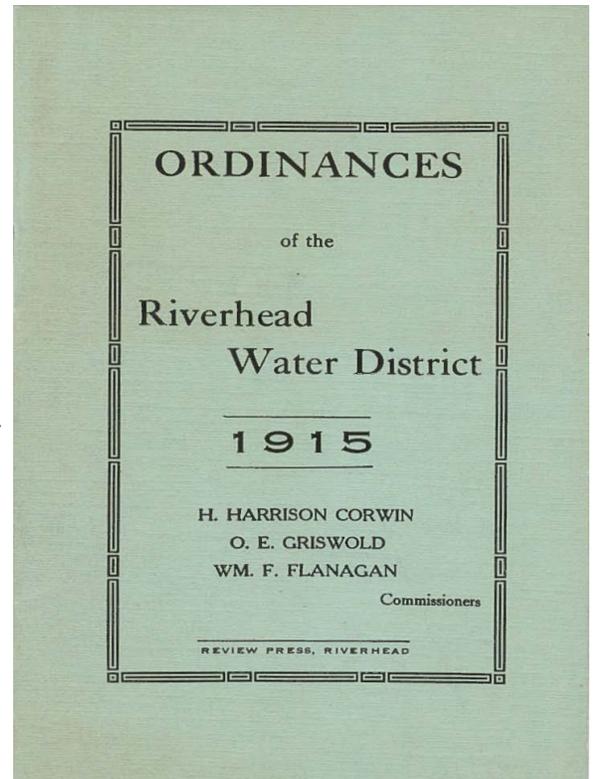
In 1910, water mains were installed up to the northwest section of the Village. But there was a concern that there was low water pressure problems in that area and insufficient flow would be available to fight a major fire. The residents of the Fire District requested that the Water Company make improvements such as constructing a new water tower and the 4-inch water mains be replaced with larger 6-inch water mains. Rather than constructing the improvements, the shareholders of the Water Company offered to sell the assets of the Company to the Town. However, the Town dismissed the petition to form the District at that time.

Led by the Chief of the Riverhead Fire Department, Frank L. Lane, a new effort was made in 1914 to establish the Water District. A public hearing was held on April 14, 1914 and the Town Board officially established the Riverhead Water District. The Town Board appointed commissioners of the District, former County Clerk William F. Flanagan, lumber dealer H. Harrison Corwin and cigar manufacturer O. Edmund Griswold. The first bond issue occurred in October 1914 for the construction of a building, water tower and equipment for providing water at a cost of \$100,000.

The Water District grew slowly until the 1980s and 1990s, at a time when individual home private wells were having water quality issues due to farming activity. The District more than doubled in size and was able to bring public water to most of the homes within the Town. In the 1990s and early 2000s, residential development occurred in areas where farmland and vacant land were being subdivided which required the Water District to expand and increase its water supply capabilities.

Today - the District provides water to over 90 percent of the residents of the Town, serving a population of approximately 35,000 people

NOTE: *Historical information taken from "Riverhead: The Halcyon Years - 1861-1819" by Thomas M. Stark*



Copy of the first Ordinances of the Riverhead Water District

WATER QUALITY REPORT

Enclosed with this newsletter is the Riverhead Water District's Annual Water Supply Report for 2013. This report presents the facts about the quality of our water supply and summarizes the water quality sampling test results taken throughout 2013. A copy of this report can also be found at the Town's website at www.townofriverheadny.gov.

The District is proud to report that our water meets or exceeds all Federal and State drinking water standards. Should you have any questions concerning this report, please contact the Water District at 631.727.3205.

ODD AND EVEN TO REDUCE THE PEAK BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Once again this year, the Riverhead Water District will be implementing a voluntary lawn irrigation program that will only permit the watering of a lawn every other day, based on the address number of your home. ODD number houses would water on ODD days of the month; EVEN number houses would water on EVEN days of the month.

During the hottest summer day, approximately 80 percent of all the water being supplied by the Riverhead Water District goes directly to lawn irrigation, with over 70 percent of all homeowners having an irrigation system. They are great for keeping our lawns green throughout the summer, but they are putting a tremendous strain on our precious water supply system. The real question is: Do we need to water everyday?



Horticultural specialists have determined that it is better for a lawn to be irrigated less frequently than daily to promote deep

root growth. And the Cornell Cooperative Extension recommends that Long Island lawns only need 1 inch of rain or irrigation per week.

The Riverhead Water District is recommending that all homeowners with automatic irrigation systems set up their control panels to operate every other day. You may also want to install a rain sensor that will shut down the irrigation system during rain events.



I want to be here for you.

If only our water infrastructure could talk to us. The corner hydrant might remind us that only tap water protects us against the threat of fire, and that the pipes below our streets need constant attention to keep life-saving water flowing at the right pressure, 24/7, without fail.

We are all stewards of the water infrastructure generations before handed down to us, and our water bills keep that system strong and reliable. For more information about what your tap water delivers, visit

www.townofriverheadny.gov

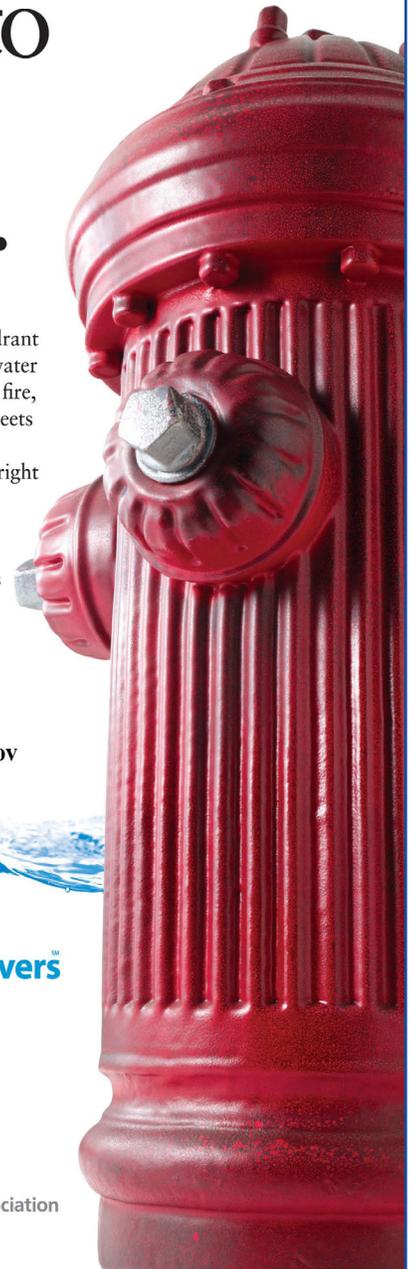


Only Tap Water Delivers™



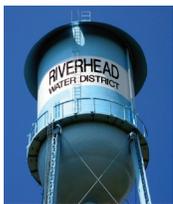
Presented in cooperation with

 American Water Works Association





Town of Riverhead
 Riverhead Water District
 1035 Pulaski Street,
 Riverhead, New York 11901



“Celebrating Our 100th Year
 of Providing Water to Riverhead”



OTHER WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

Irrigation restrictions on an every other day basis is the prime action of our Water Conservation Program. But there are many other ways every member of our community can save water everyday. Here are a few conservation tips that may help:



- Don't irrigate during the heat of the day. Studies have shown that up to 50% of the irrigation water applied during the middle of the day (10 am and 4 pm) is lost to evaporation and never makes it to the roots of the lawn.



- Install a rain sensor onto your irrigation system to shut down your automatic irrigation system when it is raining. Let nature do its own thing!

- Fix that leaking faucet. A leaking faucet or leaking toilet can amount to over 100 gallons per day. Multiply that by the hundreds of faucets that could be leaking on any given day and that adds up to a lot of wasted water!



- Store a pitcher of water in your refrigerator rather than letting it run until cold every time you want a cold glass of water.



- Don't let the faucet run when brushing your teeth or shaving. Turn it on and off when needed.

For more conservation tips, please visit www.epa.gov/watersense.