



# ALBERTSON WATER DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 10, Number 2 • Fall 2019

## EDUCATION: KEY TO SUCCESS

Congratulations are in order for our own Joe Bonavoglia. Joe, who joined AWD full time on January 1, 2002, as Water Service Trainee and worked his way up to Water Plant Operator, has recently received two certifications: a certificate of completion for Grade I Advanced Operations Water Operator Certification Course and a Grade I Advanced Supervisory Management Water Operator Certification.



The certifications, like most things in public health that involve providing water, do not come easily. A great deal of study is required and candidates must demonstrate expertise and knowledge.

For example, the 1B Certificate alone required 60 hours of advanced classroom training.

“Mr. Bonavoglia has demonstrated outstanding professional dedication to his position at the District as well as meeting the challenges facing Long Island’s water supply,” Commissioner Ken Vey stated. “His duties range from managing all required water quality sampling and recording all information relative to the same as well as monitoring all pump stations and pH and chlorine levels. Joe also assists water plant operations with cross connection control and monitoring.”



## NO LEAD CONTAMINATION!



We have completed the requisite testing mandated by the US Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) Lead and Copper Rule, and we are pleased to inform you that AWD water is in compliance with all standards.

“In New York, lead and copper regulation requires monitoring of drinking water by sampling tap water from multiple households throughout the District. The raw water we pump contains no lead to begin with,” Commissioner Howard Abbondandolo stated. “The only potential source of lead may come from plumbing fixtures or household pipes in very old houses. That is why we sample thirty different homes every three years as required.”

Commissioner Richard Ockovic added, “The Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1986 banned the use of lead in potable drinking water systems, including lead solders. We treat our raw water by raising the pH level. This helps prevent leaching from old lead fixtures. The District has been providing this corrosion control for some 35 years.

# PROACTIVE PILOT TEST



Commissioner Richard Ockovic

**B**eing proactive is the best way to cost-effectively ensure the uninterrupted delivery of pure, safe water that complies with all regulations. It's a way of life at the AWD, which is why the District has embarked on a pilot test for 1,4 dioxane in Well #3 even though the well is below the established limit.

"Pilot testing is used to verify something in real time operating conditions," Commissioner Ockovic said. "In the case of Well #3, if we have to use carbon filtration at some point, we are better off knowing sooner than later so we can devise the best possible plan. Pilot testing will give us the information we need."



## YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE

# Sherlock Holmes

when it comes to causes of 1,4-dioxane contamination.

AWD is one of the many water suppliers suing chemical manufacturers for 1,4-dioxane contamination. Lawsuits filed in U.S. District Court contend that Dow Chemical Co., Ferro Corp. and Vulcan Materials Co. knew or should have known about hazards posed by their products but did not take appropriate steps to warn others of the threat or to prevent the contamination from occurring.

"These chemical manufacturers, not AWD customers, are responsible for contaminating the water supply," Commissioner Vey stated. "Consequently, they should be held accountable for the costs of clean up. Our commitment to deliver only water that meets or surpasses all local, state and federal standards remains steadfast."

The Governor's office recently announced a standard of 1 part per billion for 1,4-dioxane. We will keep you up to date on progress through our newsletters and website. For additional information about proposed standards or health information about PFOA, PFOS and 1,4-dioxane, please contact the New York State Department of Health via phone or at [dohweb@health.ny.gov](mailto:dohweb@health.ny.gov)

**"Our commitment to deliver only water that meets or surpasses all local, state and federal standards remains steadfast."**



Commissioner Ken Vey

## REAL WORLD COMPARISONS

Envisioning the difference between parts per billion and parts per trillion can be staggering. For example, one part per trillion is one thousand times smaller than one part per billion!

### ONE PARTICLE PER BILLION

1 drop of water in an Olympic-size swimming pool

1 second in 32 years of time 

1 blade of grass on a football field 

1 penny in 10 million dollars 

1 foot of a journey to the moon 

And a billion \$100 bills stacked on top of each other would be 4,000 feet high, almost three Sears Towers on top of each other. 

### ONE PARTICLE PER TRILLION

1 drop of food coloring in 18 million gallons of water

1 second out of 32,000 years of time 

1 step of 6 inches in a journey to the sun 

And a trillion \$100 bills stacked on top of each other would be about 789 miles high or 144 Mount Everests stacked on top of each other. 



# Applying for WIIA Grant

## WIIA Water Infrastructure Improvement Act



The New York Water Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2017 (WIIA) authorized the Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) to provide grants to assist municipalities in funding water quality infrastructure. Drinking water projects may be eligible for a WIIA grant of \$3 million or 60% of the total net project costs, whichever is less. Your Albertson Water District has applied for a grant to assist in meeting anticipated costs for well remediation.

“We are pleased to see the governor taking action to invest in our state’s water infrastructure,” Commissioner Abbondondelo stated. “If approved, the grant will enable us to address much needed water infrastructure improvements as we meet any emerging water quality issues.”



Commissioner Howard Abbondondelo

## GET READY FOR OLD MAN WINTER!

Long Island experiences just about every weather condition, sometimes in rapid succession. Homeowners need to be prepared for ice storms, white outs, blizzards and winter thawing and freezing that really threaten the pipes in your home, especially water pipes. Frozen pipes can burst, causing serious property damage, but a few simple preventive tasks will minimize their effects.

- First and foremost: Know the location of your main shut-off valve in case of a cold weather emergency or any water emergency.
- Use your eyes and ears to check regularly for leaks that can lead to big damage in cold weather.
- Water pipes in unheated areas are accidents waiting to happen. Insulate pipes against freezing.
- Safeguard pipes on outside walls, especially in uninsulated areas. Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warmer room air to help prevent freezing.
- All outside water should be turned off at your interior source.
- Disconnect and stow outdoor hoses. Open each outdoor spigot.
- Make sure all irrigation systems are winterized, meaning drained and turned off.

# ALBERTSON WATER DISTRICT

Presorted  
First Class Mail  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT No. 102  
Albertson, NY 11507

**P.O. Box 335**  
**Albertson, NY 11507 USA**

Telephone: (516) 621-3610  
Fax: (516) 626-8042  
Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Monday – Friday  
[www.albertsonwater.org](http://www.albertsonwater.org)

**Commissioners:**  
Howard Abbondandolo  
Richard W. Ockovic  
Kenneth Vey

**Superintendent:**  
Rudy Henriksen

**Counsel:**  
Anthony J. LaMarca

Proudly designed and produced by  
Progressive Marketing Group, Inc.  
[www.pmgstrategic.com](http://www.pmgstrategic.com)



## *Election 2019*

### DECEMBER 10 ELECTION



It's almost time to exercise your right to vote. December 10 is the day for the annual election of an Albertson Water Commissioner for a three-year term. The term will begin January 1, 2020, and run through December 31, 2022.

**WHEN: Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

**WHERE: Albertson Fire House, 100 I.U. Willets Road, Albertson, New York**

**TIME: 3:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**ELIGIBILITY:** Section 213 of the Town Law of the State of New York provides that no person shall be entitled to vote for improvement district commissioners unless he or she is a registered voter and a resident of the Albertson Water District a minimum of 30 days prior to election date. For more information, contact us at (516) 626-8042, or visit our website [www.albertsonwater.org](http://www.albertsonwater.org).