



ALBERTSON

WATER DISTRICT NEWS

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BACKFLOW

PREVENTION AND COMPLIANCE

**MISUNDERSTOOD, IMPORTANT...
AND IT'S THE LAW.**



Commissioner Rich Ockovic

Backflow prevention devices are designed to protect the public water supply against contamination. Here are some answers to common questions and the District's responsibilities.



Q. WHAT IS BACKFLOW?

A. Backflow, as the term implies, is the opposite of normal water flow, where non-potable water or liquids flow back into the public water supply or back into your home or business drinking water system.

Q. ARE BACKFLOWS HAZARDOUS?

A. Considering that water in your home or business could be siphoned backwards into the public water main and cause public health threats, yes, backflows are potentially very hazardous.

Q. HOW DO BACKFLOWS OCCUR?

A. Backflow situations most often happen when water main breaks or damaged hydrants create low or negative street pressure.

Q. ARE THERE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BACKFLOW PREVENTION DEVICES?

A. Yes. There are many types of devices but the most common residential device is a Double Check Valve (DCV).

RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE LAW:

The AWD is charged by New York State and the Nassau County Department of Health to enforce the use of protective backflow devices. Public Health Law § 225, New York State Sanitary Code, Part 5, § 5-1.31 (Cross-connection control), and Nassau County Public Health Ordinance, Article 6, § 15 (Cross-connection control) govern the use of underground irrigation systems and specify backflow regulations, including:

- Installation (or modification) of an underground irrigation system requires a permit.
- Installations must include a backflow prevention device.
- Inspection of completed systems prior to the issuance of a permit is mandatory.
- Annual testing by a NYS certified backflow tester is mandatory.
- Proper paperwork and test results must be submitted to the District.

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CONSERVATION

We work hard to educate our residents about the value of water conservation. You see these efforts in our newsletters, on our website and in other outreach efforts. It may seem surprising that a water provider urges conservation of the very thing they produce, but it is the right thing to do, not merely for today, but for the future. Earth may be the 'Water Planet', but human beings weren't designed to drink salt water which accounts for some 70% of all surface water.

"Our subterranean water source represents one of the world's greatest aquifers," Commissioner Scott stated, "and yet it is a highly sensitive system. 2022's extended summer drought placed added stress on all Long Island water suppliers at the peak time of the year, Albertson included, but we met demand. The AWD pumps approximately 1.2 million gallons daily in the cold months and 4 to 5 times that amount in summer heat. New York State has enacted some of the nation's strictest water regulations to protect our sole-source aquifer."



Commissioner Edward W. Scott



Common Sense About Our Greatest Natural Resource

By observing these regulations and Nassau County's watering restrictions, and by doing winter home maintenance to stop leaks and reduce the risk of frozen pipes, we can be compliant and bequeath a healthy, productive aquifer to future generations."

WHAT SAVING WATER MEANS TO OUR COMMUNITY.

- SAVING WATER saves energy and associated costs.
- SAVING WATER reduces the amount and cost of energy required to pump water.
- SAVING WATER reduces the need to construct costly new wells, pumping stations and water towers.
- SAVING WATER lessens the strain on the water system during dry spells or droughts, helping to avoid severe water use restrictions.
- SAVING WATER helps ensure that essential firefighting needs are met.
- SAVING WATER helps ensure a future for our children and our grandchildren.

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BACKFLOW PREVENTION AND COMPLIANCE

INACCURATE OR INCOMPLETE BACKFLOW TEST RESULTS ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE

Once the test has been performed and the device has passed, copies of the completed Report on Test and Maintenance of Backflow Prevention Device must be submitted to the Albertson Water District.

Inaccurate or incomplete backflow test result forms will be rejected. Rejections are most often due to:

- Water meter readings not properly corresponding to AWD records.
- Check valve serial numbers are incorrect.
- The recorded system pressure is inaccurate.
- The test form is not signed by the consumer.

For these reasons as well as other irregularities, the test form may be rejected by the District.



INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRESS!



Water supply is time-intensive, requiring dedication, meticulous attention to details, constant checking and re-checking and a tremendous amount of science. Here's a snapshot of our progress with a number of projects.

■ **WELL NO. 1:** Replacement of well and transfer pumps: Deferred due to the peak hot weather pumping season, the pumps and motors have been received. TV inspection and cleaning to be scheduled shortly. Re: clearwell coating repairs, we are awaiting insurance reviews and notice to proceed.

■ **WELL NO. 2:** The refurbishing or possible redrilling: A draft of the Well Technical Report is nearly done and will be submitted for review for the possible refurbishing or redrilling of this well.

■ **WELL NO. 3A:** Advanced Oxidation Process (AOP) Treatment System: Contract documents have been submitted, and we are awaiting responses from the Nassau County Department of Health and the New York State Department of Health. Coordination of the final generator size is ongoing. Bidding documents are scheduled to be available by late November.

■ **WELL NO. 4:** Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) systems: A meeting was held with all contractors in mid-October to re-commence work onsite. Excavation and removal of previously installed materials is



expected to commence in the near future, and a Scheduling Meeting will be held in the next several weeks.

■ **WELL NO. 5:** Well refurbishing: This project remains in the discussion and planning stage.

■ **SCADA (SUPERVISORY CONTROL AND DATA ACQUISITION):** Despite supply chain disruptions, Phase I is underway. Remote Terminal Units (RTUs) are expected in Q1 2023, and we are working to complete the Well 1 Aeration Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) at the same time as the pumps and clearwell. Funding for this project is partially provided from the District's Capital Improvements Fund.



■ **SHEPHERD LANE GROUND STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION:** Tank refurbishment will be addressed in the future.

■ **SHEPHERD LANE ELEVATED STORAGE TANK REHABILITATION/ REPLACEMENT:** Proposal for a Site Survey will be submitted, and a Proposal for Hydraulic Modeling of the System will be provided to assist in interim operations.



TIPS FOR YOUR PROTECTION:

- Always use certified backflow testers.
- All certified testers should have a backflow test kit and assorted tools, not just a pad and pencil!
- A proper backflow test should take a minimum of 15 minutes.
- Pay your tester to avoid any delay in the test being submitted to the District. Many testers will not submit the test results until payment is received or your check clears.



For a list of certified backflow testers, see our AWD website www.albertsonwater.org

Remember: Backflow testing is not only the right thing to do, it is the law.

» CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL

In compliance with the New York Public Health Law, the Albertson Water District is requiring that all residents with irrigation systems, below or above ground swimming pools, fountains, fish ponds, hot tubs or the like that contain water or any other fluid which could possibly be back-siphoned into the public water supply, register with the Albertson Water District and have the proper backflow device installed.

This action is in compliance with the New York Public Health Law. There is no fee for the registering of systems currently in place.

THE NEW YORK STATE SANITARY CODE also requires that backflow devices be tested annually.

Public Health Law § 225, New York State Sanitary Code, Part 5, § 5-1.31 (Cross-connection control), and Nassau County Public Health Ordinance, Article 6, § 15 (Cross-connection control) require that the test must be performed annually by a New York State certified tester and the results of the test submitted to the Albertson Water District.

NEW YORK STATE SANITARY CODE

The Albertson Water District, in compliance with its Cross Connection Control program, will be inspecting all residences and commercial properties for compliance. Residences or commercial properties found not to be in compliance will be notified by mail to correct the same in a given amount of time to avoid termination of the water supply.

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★★★★★★★★ Water Commissioner Election December 13, 2022

Local voting is the cornerstone of the American political system. The annual election of an Albertson Water Commissioner for a 3-year term beginning January 1, 2023 and running through December 31, 2025 is almost here!

- **When:** Tuesday, December 13, 2022.
- **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 for a minimum of 30 days prior to election date. For more information, contact us at (516) 621-3610, or visit our website www.albertsonwater.org.



HYDRANTS

This Can Be a Lifesaver.

This Can Be The Opposite.



Take care of hydrants near you.

Any firefighter will tell you that time and water are the keys to saving lives and property during fire emergencies. Access and visibility of fire hydrants is particularly important in winter. Blowing and plowed snow can bury hydrants. We kindly ask our neighbors to keep hydrants clear of snow this winter to assist firefighters and potentially save lives and property.

HELPFUL HYDRANT HINTS

- **Never** pile debris near a hydrant.
- **Don't** plant shrubs, trees or ornamental bushes in close proximity.
- **Remember**, even with small snow storms, it only takes one plow-through to cover up a fire hydrant.
- **Check** hydrants frequently during a storm and clean up.
- **Keep** in mind hydrants in cul-de-sacs are more often buried by plowed snow.

The next time neighborhood kids offer to shovel your driveway or walk, why not give them a bonus to clear snow from nearby hydrants," Commissioner Vey said. "And being a good neighbor helps all. Clear hydrants near the homes of the elderly and handicapped. If you see a damaged or frozen hydrant, or a hydrant where the main nozzle opening isn't facing the street, notify the District immediately. This is the best way to help firefighters help you."



Commissioner Ken Vey