



575 Broad Hollow Road
Melville, NY 11747-5076

CONTACT: Kathy Ryan
work: (516) 293-5700
cell: (516) 524-2032

BATTLE OF THE TAPS WINNERS EMERGE

MELVILLE, NY, MAY 6, 2005 — Drinking water from the Carle Place Water District in Nassau County and Dix Hills Water District in Suffolk County was judged to be the tastiest in this year's annual Best Tasting Tap Water Contest. The win earns the public water suppliers a spot in the next level of competition and each district was awarded a three-foot trophy to proudly display in their respective communities along with bragging rights for one year.

The 17th annual contest, sponsored by the Long Island Water Conference and held in commemoration of National Drinking Water Week, highlighted the quality and quantity of tap water throughout Long Island. More than 500 shoppers at Simon' s The Mall at The Source in Westbury and Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove tasted samples from 30 public water suppliers to choose one they liked best.

Second-time winner Carle Place Water District will go head-to-head with four-time Best in Suffolk County titleholder and 2000 Best in New York State winner Dix Hills Water District sometime in June to determine a Long Island champ. In addition, both winners will represent their counties at the New York State Health Department's regional tasting competition this summer. A win there will earn a spot in the New York State competition at the state fair in Syracuse.

Founded in 1915, the Carle Place Water District serves 8,900 people via 5 deep wells

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and 35 miles of water mains in a 1.5 square mile area. It has a pumping capacity of 3.6 million gallons per day and maintains 360 fire hydrants.

The Dix Hills Water District, established in 1953, serves 34,000 people via 15 deep wells and 169 miles of water mains in a 15 square mile area. It has a pumping capacity of 26 million gallons per day and maintains 1,277 fire hydrants.

Established in 1951, the Long Island Water Conference is a professional association of more than 45 Nassau-Suffolk public water suppliers dedicated to providing and maintaining a safe and plentiful supply of public drinking water for some 2.7 million people.

Long Island' s drinking water is drawn from underground aquifers, located far below the earth' s surface, by more than 1,000 deep wells and delivered by water utilities through a total of 10,800 miles of water mains. LIWC members provide their customers with water storage capacity for daily usage and fire protection and collectively maintain nearly 79,000 fire hydrants. Altogether, they spend in excess of \$2 million each year to test public tap water quality, as required by county, state and federal regulations.

LIWC members also include consulting engineers, attorneys, water contractors and officials from government regulatory agencies.

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