

From the TAP



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Your Neighborhood Water District Does It Best!
(516) 249-3330 • www.sfwater.com

Jim Martin Answering The Call To Protect Our Consumers.

It's not uncommon for South Farmingdale Water District's General Foreman to wear more than one hat...literally and figuratively. Jim Martin wears two hats with a great sense of pride, one for the SFWD and one as a volunteer firefighter. It takes a dedicated individual to achieve high marks in both lines of service.

Earlier this year, Jim was elected First Deputy Fire Chief (also known as: First Assistant Fire Chief) by the South Farmingdale Fire Department. This is a major responsibility for the 7-year veteran of the department, one that he embraces as much as overseeing SFWD plant operations and general construction.

Jim started his career at SFWD back in 1999 as a meter reader and service operator. He obtained his operator's license in 2001, was promoted to Plant Operator and in 2002, became a lead man providing field technical support. In 2004, Jim was promoted to Foreman and is currently the General Foreman for the District. Jim is active throughout the entire day monitoring operations of all the plants, and he oversees millions of gallons of water pumped from our aquifer.

Nights and weekends, Jim's firefighter duties take over, and he's on call for most, if not all emergency responses. "There is no sleep in my house," says Jim with a chuckle. "Whether it's a water main break within the District or a call from the fire department, I'm on call. I always have both hats in the car, literally."

"Becoming First Assistant Fire Chief means a lot to me, and it's a pleasure to serve my community in these two different ways. When I speak with people in the neighborhoods, they are very grateful for the hard work and dedication of both the SFWD and South Farmingdale Fire Department. That positive feedback makes both jobs very rewarding."



Outside the water district and fire department, Jim wears a third hat...that's being a good family man. A resident of South Farmingdale for almost his entire life, Jim has been happily married for 24 years to his wife Christine, and they have three lovely children: TJ (20), Kayla (18) and Victoria (15).

There is not a lot of downtime at the Martin house, but Jim wouldn't have it any other way.

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A Message from the Superintendent Charles Prucha.

Welcome to the Spring 2012 Newsletter of the South Farmingdale Water District.

Luckily, we sustained a very mild winter and this was great news for the District. We responded to only 9 water main breaks as opposed to an average of 30 per winter season. This saved the District a lot of money, and our response time was immediate.

In regard to future business, the District will be improving our infrastructure by installing water mains to increase water flow. It's common for Districts to add mains and replace old mains to improve efficiencies, and we'll provide advance notice of when construction will begin.

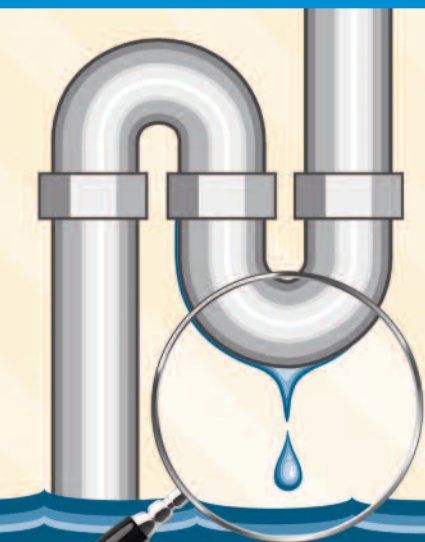


Lastly, I'd like to thank you, our consumers, for being diligent and reporting any suspicious activity in your neighborhood. Early in 2012 there were a few incidents in Nassau County where people were posing as water department personnel, electrical contractors and other maintenance personnel to gain access to residents' homes in an attempt to burglarize them. We're happy to see that these activities have ceased, and your vigilance helped put a stop to these imposters.

As always, have a safe and healthy summer and enjoy time with your friends, family and loved ones.

"The Leak Whisperer" **Maintaining our Infrastructure from Pesky Leaks.**

Without question, water is one of our most precious resources. So, when water is needlessly squandered, it is cause for concern for officials at the SFWD. Even though SFWD practices the highest maintenance standards, small leaks within the distribution system are inevitable in any such complex system and infrastructure.



Recently, the District hired a specialized leak detection company to inspect the entire workings of our distribution system for leaks, no matter how small they may be. Using newly developed sophisticated wireless technology, an inspector can "walk" through the system and detect leaks with pinpoint accuracy and precision. The wireless system picks up the slightest sound of a leak, which allows our service crews to make repairs in as economical and efficient way possible.

It is estimated the process will save the District over \$100,000 in water loss and conserve our water supply at the same time.

The commissioners responded, "We strive to be proactive in all maintenance procedures to keep our infrastructure running smoothly at all times. When new technology presents itself and proves to be effective, we employ it at once when it is in the best interest of our consumers. This newly designed leak detection service does both, and we are proud to be at the forefront of using the technology."

Be Mindful of Water Conservation During Hot Summer Months!

South Farmingdale Water District is committed to water conservation, and with the warmer weather approaching, it's important to be mindful and look for ways to conserve water.

Here are a few helpful tips for you to conserve water this summer season:

- 1** Water lawns and gardens in the early morning and use moisture sensing irrigation devices to avoid over watering. If you don't have an underground irrigation system, a soaker hose is recommended.
- 2** Nassau County ordinances prohibit watering between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. What's more, watering may be done only on even days if your street address is an even number and on odd days if your address is an odd number. Non-compliance can lead to a fine issued by the County.
- 3** Small irrigation ditches along rows of garden plants and flowers will keep them moist and conserve water.
- 4** Do not run hoses without installing a spring-loaded nozzle, especially when washing your car.
- 5** Report damaged or non-working hydrants at 516-249-3330.
- 6** Check underground sprinklers, pools and spas for leaks and repair leaking faucets and running toilets immediately. Even the smallest leak can waste hundreds of gallons of water if not repaired.

Visit www.sfwater.com for more water conservation tips.

New Water Bill Drop-Box for Consumers. 24/7 Access.

Recently, consumers have been asking for an easier way to drop off their water bills at our main office. We're happy to announce that we've answered the call and installed a water bill drop-box at the main entrance of our 40 Langdon Road office. You're still more than welcome to come in and visit us, or simply drop your bill in the box.

Our normal hours of business will continue Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m., or drop your bill into the box at any time, 24/7. Bills dropped off after 4 p.m. will be collected and posted the next business day.



REQUIRED Backflow & Underground Irrigation System Testing

It's important for the District to remind our consumers about required backflow regulations.



A backflow condition may arise when very low or negative street pressure occurs due to water main breaks, hydrants knocked over, etc. If you have had a backflow device installed in your home, it is required by law that it is tested every twelve months by a New York State Certified Backflow Tester.

SFWD Commissioners noted, "Backflow prevention devices when properly installed and maintained, guard against these conditions, so please check with our office or our website regarding requirements when installing new plumbing systems including underground irrigation." The SFWD website has many of the required forms under the "Backflow Testing" page. Additionally, licensed plumbers or sprinkler/irrigation contractors are also knowledgeable of these mandatory requirements.

A list of certified testers can be found on the website as well.





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No Tax Increase for 2012.

For the second consecutive year, SFWD has contained costs and conserved tax dollars, and we're happy to report there is no tax increase for 2012.

This achievement further demonstrates the immediate benefits of local control and how the SFWD has historically and successfully managed the budget at no increased cost to the consumer. The announcement is a welcome change of pace for taxpayers in a year of financial uncertainties and rising costs on basic commodities. Residents can rest assured that all current projects to improve efficiency and maintain high water quality standards will stay in place, without compromise and without increased costs.

Some little-known facts are that SFWD water rates are about 2% below the national average (source: American Water Works Associations) and that the consumers' water tax is less than 1.7% of their total tax bill. The Commissioners noted, "It is our fiscal responsibility to work within our budgets. As public servants and residents of the District, it is our duty to protect our fellow taxpayers and deliver the safest and best water possible."

Typical South Farmingdale Tax Allocation.

