

From the TAP

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*A Publication of the South Farmingdale Water District
(516) 249-3330 / www.sfwater.com / Your Neighborhood Water District Does It Best!*

Close To A Settlement On Plant 3 Treatment Facility!

After complex and often grueling negotiations with the U.S. Navy and Department of Defense (D.O.D.), a settlement on the Plant 3 treatment facility should be reached this summer. This means there will be no tax implications or expenses passed along to SFWD consumers.

The D.O.D. was held accountable for the initial contamination and agreed in principle to provide full compensation for the cost of cleanup, future operations, management and maintenance.

Plant 3, specifically built to deal with the Grumman plume contamination threat to our aquifer, is designed architecturally to blend in with the community's residential character. The water that reaches your home meets all quality standards.



Water Treatment Facility at Plant 3 on Hicksville Road. An inside look at the plant site.

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Visit our website for further updates at www.sfwater.com.

A Message from Superintendent Charles Prucha

Welcome To The Spring 2014 Newsletter

On behalf of the District, I want to acknowledge the long hours and hard work that our crew put in throughout this harsh winter. SFWD responded to over 30 water main breaks, sometimes two at a time! Our average response, from making repairs to getting lines back in full operation, was less than an hour.

To gain perspective on our excellent service, consider that SFWD is responsible for 127.6 miles of water mains in a District with 12,750 accounts held by over 44,500 people. This massive system is managed and maintained entirely by our staff of fewer than 12 employees!

Applause is well earned.

We are also thankful for the efforts of our consumers who shoveled snow and kept hydrants clear. This was a huge help to our ever-dedicated

firemen and rescue response teams who are on call 24/7/365.

The SFWD is a public utility run by locally elected commissioners who are fiscally accountable to you, our consumers. As a local government non-profit entity, our rates are based on actual operational expenses. Our commissioners and most of our employees have life-long roots in the community, as evidenced by the article on Jim Martin and Kevin Mauro.

We take great pride in maintaining the highest quality drinking water and delivering it at the lowest price possible, 2% below the national average.

Looking forward to the warm days of summer when water demand increases, please remember that conservation benefits everyone in the District.

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of water mains

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A Tale of Two Men

Protecting Our Water Supply and Communities

Ever hear of someone wearing 'two different hats' on the job? That may be an understatement for Jim Martin and Kevin Mauro, each dedicated to their families, jobs and community in a multitude of ways.





WAY TO GO, GARY!

Commissioner Gary Brosnan
Recognized By Nassau
Suffolk Water Commissioners'
Association

SFWD Commissioner Gary Brosnan (left) was recently honored by the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners' Association (right: Howard Abbondandolo) in recognition of his contributions as president in 2013. Commissioner Brosnan is credited with directing the association's cosponsorship of Long Island's first Groundwater Symposium and supervising the association's participation in the New York Water Event and Expo. He also headed the association's Educational Seminars Program and helped create a special forum regarding the proposed Long Island Aquifer Commission.

Annual Water Quality Report

Now ONLINE at www.sfwater.com/waterquality

In accordance with Federal and State regulations, the South Farmingdale Water District produces an *Annual Drinking Water Quality Report*. This in-depth report is filled with important information regarding water quality, cost, sources, treatment and more. In keeping with our goal to provide a safe, uninterrupted water supply, we strongly encourage you to read this important information.



You can read the 2013 Report, as well as reports from years past, on our website.

Jim Martin is currently General Foreman of SFWD, having joined in 1999 as a meter reader and service operator. In 2001 he earned his operator's license, and by 2002 he was a lead man providing field and technical support to our operations. In 2004, he was promoted to Foreman.

Today, Jim's days are busy monitoring operations of all the plants, overseeing construction and maintenance, protecting and sustaining water flow and monitoring the quality of millions of gallons of water pumped from our aquifer.

But his other 'hat' is his January 14, 2014, election to Fire Chief of South Farmingdale Fire Department, a major responsibility in every sense. Jim is well prepared, having been a volunteer firefighter for 19 years. Like his job at SFWD, this is a 24-hour-a-day, 365-days-a-year commitment.

"I always keep both hats in my car, literally," says Jim with a chuckle. "Whether it's a water main break within the District or a call from the fire department, I'm there. It's part of my responsibilities."

Jim is on call at a moment's notice around-the-clock, protecting the community and helping to ensure a high-quality water supply, all the while dedicating time, attention and support to his wife and

children. A native of South Farmingdale, his service is a great example of how our district has become the desirable, attractive community it is.

Meanwhile, in North Massapequa....

Kevin Mauro has been a North Massapequa resident since the age of 4,

"I love what I do at SFWD. People may not know what it takes to deliver water to their homes and businesses, but as a firefighter and SFWD employee, I have come to appreciate the monumental effort it takes."

— Kevin Mauro

so he feels like a 'native son' in every way.

His neighborhood gave him his career goals. He tells it this way, "When I was a kid, my neighbors were volunteer firefighters. I'd watch them spring into action when called. It was very exciting, and I understood at a young age how important their service was. Coincidentally, Charles Winterfeldt, a firefighter and ex-SFWD Commissioner was

one of our neighbors. He was a big inspiration to a kid like me."

Kevin is now 37. He joined North Massapequa Fire Department in 1996 and has been promoted through the ranks as a Lieutenant, Captain, Assistant Chief and recently was elected Fire Chief, an around-the-clock commitment.

In 2012, Kevin joined SFWD as a general service employee and is quickly moving up the ranks. This is not by chance.

Kevin is known as a 'hands-on' problem solver and fixer. His experience with machinery, his technical knowledge and his versatility have saved SFWD uncounted dollars. Kevin can repair generators, motors and all sorts of critical components within the system.

Officially, his responsibilities include repairing water mains, supporting plant technology and flushing hydrants. He is in training to be a Plant Operator.

"I love what I do at SFWD. People may not know what it takes to deliver water to their homes and businesses, but as a firefighter and SFWD employee, I have come to appreciate the monumental effort it takes."

SFWD is fortunate to have these dedicated men on staff. And we are proud of the communities they serve and the 'hats' they wear!

(Pictured left to right: Jim Martin and Kevin Mauro)



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Capital Improvements To Begin During Fall 2014

This summer, SFWD will issue a bond to fund capital improvements to improve the infrastructure of our water system and maintain our valuable community assets now and in the future.

At a public meeting earlier this year, the District informed consumers about the necessary improvements and their funding. The five-year capital improvement requested from the Town of Oyster Bay will have a minimal impact on taxes.

- Replacement of deteriorating water mains (some in service for nearly 80 years).
- Installation of an additional iron removal filter system at Plant 1.
- Upgrade of security systems at all wells and plant sites.
- Painting our 1,000,000-gallon elevated water tank at Plant 1 to prevent corrosion and to maintain the special interior coatings, which will prolong the life of the steel.

Updates will be reported within our newsletter and on our website.

Water Conservation Tips

- Limit the time you water your lawn. The average lawn needs only 1 to 2 inches of water per week.
- Check the short-term weather forecast. Periods of cool, cloudy weather reduce the need to water.
- Check your sprinkler heads. If they are leaking, fix them or call your irrigation specialist.
- A faucet that leaks two tablespoons per minute amounts to 15 gallons per day! Try to fix the leak yourself. If you are unable to do so, call a plumber.
- Don't run the water while you shave or brush your teeth. You are using one gallon of water per minute, most of which is wasted.
- Wash a full load of laundry. Not only will it conserve water, but it will also cut your electric bill.
- Keep a pitcher of tap water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap to fill one glass of cold water.